



# HOWNIIKAN

Zawbogyagises / September 2016

Top Photo: The Saturday night Gathering of Potawatomi Nations Powwow. Photo by Kevin Pyle.

## Felon-reintegration program



Tribal Re-Entry Program Coordinator Burt Patadal works with ex-felons trying to get back on their feet.

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## Gathering 2016 photos



More than 2,000 tribal members from the nine Potawatomi tribes travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma for the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations.

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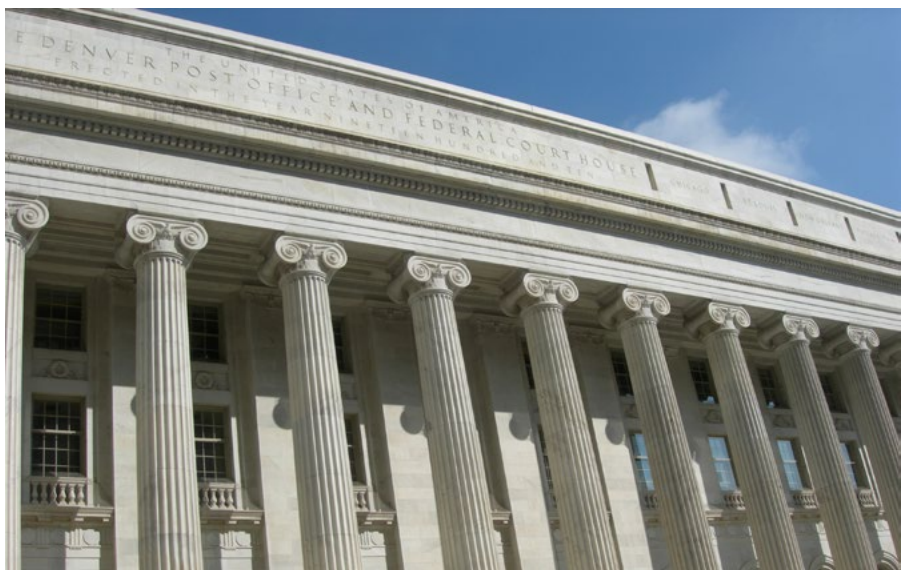
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## OTC continues attempts to unlawfully tax CPN

The Oklahoma Tax Commission will continue its attempt to unlawfully collect sales taxes from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The case, which began in 2014, is now headed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The tribe requested arbitration after the OTC filed a complaint in its Administrative Proceedings Division on May 28, 2014 seeking to revoke permits for sales tax, low point beer and mixed beverages from all tribal enterprises including FireLake Entertainment Center, FireLake Corner Store, FireLake Discount Foods, FireLake Express Grocery and Grand Casino Hotel and Resort.

The State of Oklahoma incorrectly said that the Nation was obligated to collect, report and pay state sales taxes on sales at all tribal businesses under the gaming compact. The Nation disputed that, arguing that the



The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, Colorado. Photo provided by Dtobias.

State of Oklahoma was attempting to use the gaming compact to unlawfully impose state sales taxes on tribal land.

On April 4, 2016, arbitrator Daniel J. Boudreau, former State of Oklaho-

ma Supreme Court Justice, ruled in favor of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in a dispute between CPN and the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

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## CPN Urgent Care Clinics to open

Starting in mid-August, CPN Health Services patients in need of same-day care for minor medical issues have the option of visiting the tribe's two new urgent care clinics. Located at both tribal clinics from 1-5 p.m. each weekday, the new urgent care programs aim to cut down on wait times for primary care physicians.

"These urgent care clinics are strictly for walk-ins and will only treat one medical ailment. If you wake up with a cold, or you break a bone in your hand and need an x-ray, this is the place for you," explained Chris Skillings, CPN Health Services Director.

Like their counterparts in the private sector, the CPN Urgent Care Clinics are a basic, curative form of service that deals with minor healthcare emergencies. Healthcare professionals at urgent care facilities treat minor medical conditions and ailments before they get worse. Due to the small amount of afflictions these clinics can treat, many market themselves as a means of cutting down wait times found in primary care medical offices and emergency rooms. As Skillings explained, CPN Health Services developed its own urgent care clinics for this same reason.

"This does not replace the primary care physician visit, this is strictly to get our patients in and out quick-



The CPN West Clinic located behind the Grand Casino.

ly for single issues," he said. "If you need several tests or have extensive healthcare issues, your primary care doctor is the one to make an appointment with and see."

Like many tribal health services, CPN clinics have a small number of openings each day that can be booked by calling at 8 a.m. However, due to the high volume of requests to see a doctor, these appointments are routinely booked within the first half hour of the clinic being open.

Appointments cannot be made over the phone at the new urgent care facilities, but are scheduled by walk-ins only. Once the allotted visits for the day are full, no further patients will be seen.

CPN's urgent care clinics will be open from 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and can only be accessed by visiting the check-in desk at either of the tribe's two clinics. The CPN East Clinic is located at 2307 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801, while the CPN West Clinic's address is 781 Grand Casino Blvd., Shawnee, OK 74804. CPN Health Services are open to all Native Americans who are members of federally recognized tribal nations. Non-tribal spouses of CPN members as well as tribal employees are also eligible for care at CPN Health Services facilities.

For more information about CPN Health Services, please call (405)273-5236 or visit [www.potawatomi.org/services/health](http://www.potawatomi.org/services/health).



# Felon-reintegration program operates in face of systemic challenges

Those who have been convicted of felony offenses often face challenges in moving on with their lives after they have served their time. Many ex-felons face systemic obstacles to housing, transportation and employment after their convictions, resulting in a recidivism rate that stretches criminal justice budgets at the state and local levels.

Burdened by a ballooning prisoner population and budget shortfalls resulting in widespread understaffing of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, recent sessions of the Oklahoma Legislature have studied how to alleviate these issues. Thus far, impactful legislative action has not emerged from the statehouse despite the prison population being at 104 percent capacity. The closest the state has come to true reform was the 2011 House Bill 2131 by then-Shawnee, Oklahoma Speaker of the House Kris Steele. The legislation aimed to cut the incarceration rate by implementing concurrent sentencing and GPS monitoring while expanding eligibility for community sentencing. However, after parts of the bill concerning the state pardon and parole board were deemed unconstitutional by Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a reform bill in the 2012 session called the Judicial Reinvestment Initiative was signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin.

Yet hopes for improvements were dashed as the governor's office appeared to withdraw support for the law, [with her office's budget not including funding for the reforms](#). The governor also rescinded federal grant funds to be used as part of the reforms, saying that the state would fund initiatives to raise awareness of new laws for attorneys, law enforcement and judges. That state funding never materialized though, as Speaker Steele told the *Tulsa World* in 2014, "They said we didn't need it, we had enough money...Oklahoma could pay for its own program. Well, that's never happened."

## Small steps

Former Speaker Steele, who has led renewed efforts to put criminal justice reform measures to a direct vote of the people since the JRI's failure, told [Oklahoma Watch](#) that he believed the governor's office balked in order to appear tough on crime and due to pressure from private prison groups.

The decisions that undermined the reforms also took place before the global oil price collapse of the past two years, and a once-booming Oklahoma economy has sputtered as of late. According to the state treasurer's office, [Oklahoma entered a recession sometime in mid-2015](#). Unemployment has crept up, while the past two legislative sessions have faced [\\$611 million](#) and [\\$1.3 billion](#) budget shortfalls, causing cuts to a wide range of state agencies and services.

Though large scale solutions appear impossible despite the Republican

Party controlling supermajorities in both chambers of the legislature as well as the governor's office, incremental progress has been forthcoming.

In February 2016, Governor Fallin signed an executive order altering job applications for state agencies. The order removed questions asking about criminal history on the applications, known as "[banning the box](#)."

The order does not halt background checks or questions about past convictions asked during the interview process.

## Tribes search for solutions

Like many issues impacting rural Oklahoma that can't or won't be met by the state, tribal nations have stepped up to find ways for Native American ex-felons to succeed once out of prison. The Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Reentry Alliance is one such entity, offering support, instruction, and education training to ex-offenders. Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one of the [group's founding members](#).

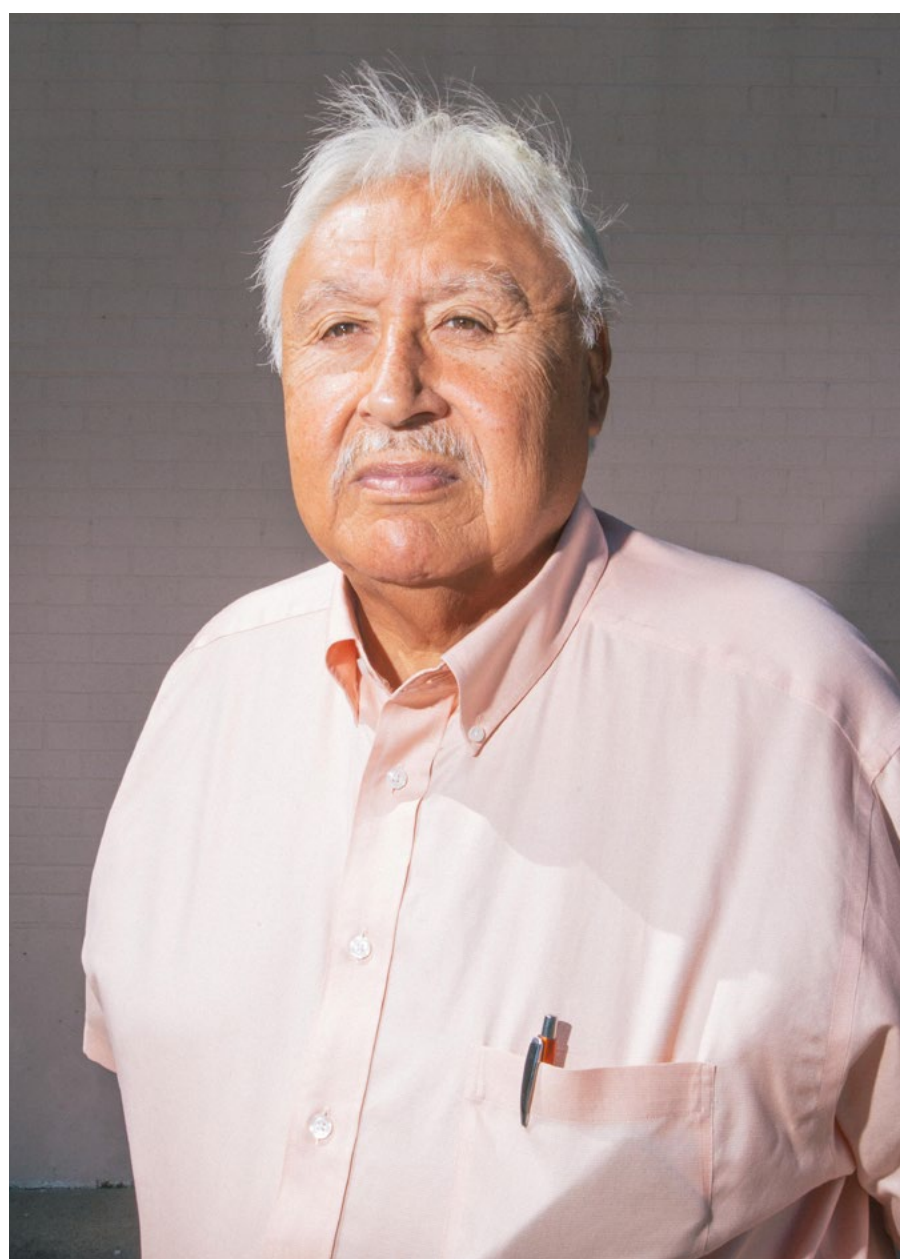
At CPN, one of the tribal reintegration program's most visible and ardent advocates is Burt Patadal. A member of the Kiowa Nation, Patadal is a familiar face in Pottawatomie County, having been raised in Shawnee. He is Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Tribal-Reentry Program coordinator for ex-felons in CPN's Employment and Training Program.

He describes the contrasts he's seen in convictions between the states, noting that some offenses in South Dakota will only result in a misdemeanor charge whereas in Oklahoma, the offender would be [charged with a felony](#).

Patadal, who insists that those he works with attend some form of counseling, explained the circumstances facing ex-felons once they leave prison. Like everyone else, they have to pay rent, go to work, get a driver's license and an automobile as well as repay court ordered fines and fees.

Yet even getting to where they can do those things is troublesome in Oklahoma. State law requires felons who lose their driver's licenses because of their convictions to pay off their fines *before* it is reinstated, typically at a cost of around \$3,500. Oklahoma's public transportation infrastructure essentially serves the large metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Oklahoma City, leaving many rural dwelling ex-felons unable to get to their place of employment if it is a few miles from their home.

In Pottawatomie County, this situation is especially stark, with few public ride programs operating. Citizen Potawatomi Nation's own transit program is free to the public, but is typically booked up weeks in advance since it operates by appointments only. Though case managers like Patadal try to secure bicycles



Burt Patadal

for ex-felons they're assisting, others may choose to either drive illegally or return to more illicit money making ventures to help pay the bills.

Even those with valid transportation confront another set of trying circumstances.

"If they don't have an education or any skills, they have to go get a job at a fast food restaurant, but then they're only making \$7.50 an hour," explained Patadal. "How are you going to pay your rent, your utilities and then your restitution?"

Should they meet those challenges, Patadal noted that something as simple as a traffic violation can send an ex-offender back into the prison system.

"The thing is, you can have a person get out of prison that gets themselves a job, a wife, a house and is on the right path, and then they get pulled over for something as small as a speeding ticket. When that police officer runs the name, they just show an outstanding fine and have to lock the person up. If they can't make bail, they stay in and then can lose their job."

"It just seems like Oklahoma keeps kicking them, and kicking them and kicking them. You know, get over it man, they've done their five years, let them get along with their life," he said.

Though there is no fix all solution to these issues, the hope is that eventual-

ly, smarter sentencing and post-conviction restrictions will emerge. In a local example, one has.

The City of Shawnee Municipal Court has become a key partner in Patadal's work through the CPN Tribal Reintegration Program. With four tribal nations in the city's immediate vicinity and 14 percent of its population being Native American, Judge Randall Wiley has sought solutions to lower recidivism rates. "Elder Burt," as Judge Wiley refers to him, has been so successful in helping Native Americans who've appeared before him that he appointed Patadal to a position in his Recovery Court.

"Elder Burt's energy and experience has made him an invaluable member of my court team," said Judge Wiley.

## Progress made when it's truly wanted

Brandon White had been fighting alcoholism for years, attending rehabilitation and detox programs while attempting to get sober. Each time he found his way back to his old habits, ending up at the bottom of a glass of 100 proof vodka. Even after an 11 month stint in prison where despite drying up, he felt he needed to be in some sort of a structured environment to help deal with his alcoholism. Speaking from his personal experience, simply being behind bars wasn't a solution for someone struggling with addiction.

*Continued on page 9*



# U.S. Supreme Court turns away challenges to Native nation sovereignty

By Eva Marie Carney,  
District 2 Legislator

*This article was originally printed in **Raising the Bar**, the publication of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. It is reproduced here with the WBA's and the author's permission.*

In an earlier piece published here, I provided an overview of two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court during its 2015 Term. Those cases, in substance, challenged the ability of Native nations to protect their communities from those who commit sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Both cases have now been resolved, with outcomes favorable to Native nations' interests.

**The Dollar General decision:** *Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*, the case involving the alleged sexual abuse of a Native youth by the non-Native manager of a Dollar General store, was resolved through a per curiam opinion issued after the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. The opinion affirmed the lower court's decision by a 4-4 tie vote.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that the Choctaw Tribal Court has civil jurisdiction over the non-Native conduct for which the youth and his parents sought damages in tribal court, since the conduct arose from the consensual relationship between Dollar General and the Choctaw Tribal Government. The Fifth Circuit's rationale was that, because the youth was under the store manager's supervision as a result of the youth's participation in a youth internship program operated and funded by the Choctaw Tribal Government and because Dollar General had expressly agreed to participate in the job training program and consented in lease documents to the application of tribal law and tribal court jurisdiction, Dollar General had consented to the exercise of tribal jurisdiction over a workplace sexual assault suit arising directly from its participation in the internship program. Dollar General, in the court of appeals' view, readily could have anticipated that sexual



*The U.S. Supreme Court - By UpstateNYer via Wikipedia Commons.*

molestation of an intern by its store manager would be actionable under Choctaw law.

This affirmance is grounded in the Supreme Court's earlier decision in *Montana v. U.S.*, 450 U.S. 544 (1981). In *Montana*, the Supreme Court held generally that "Indian tribes cannot exercise power inconsistent with their diminished status as sovereigns," but also created an exception that permits a tribe to exercise civil jurisdiction over non-members engaged in consensual relationships with the tribe or its members on tribal land if there is a nexus between the nonmember's relationship with the tribe or tribal members and the claims posed.

Dollar General and the alleged abuser now will be required to defend themselves against the civil suit in the Choctaw Tribal Court, but these defendants cannot be criminally prosecuted by the Choctaw. That is because, under other Supreme Court precedent, *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, 435 U.S. 191 (1978), a Native nation is precluded from prosecuting a non-Native defendant for crimes committed against a Native person, even when those crimes take place on land held in trust for and within the reservation of the Native nation, unless Congress expressly authorizes such criminal prosecutions.

**The Bryant decision:** The second case, *United States v. Bryant*, was resolved unanimously by the justices in an opinion written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. *Bryant* holds that domestic abuse convictions that have been obtained in tribal court proceedings conducted in compliance with the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 ("ICRA") lawfully may be considered in connection with the felony repeat-offender provisions of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 ("VAWA"). *Bryant* offers resounding support for the principle that Native nations are sovereign bodies distinct from the United States and not constrained by the U.S. Constitution, in forcefully rejecting the defendant's constitutional challenge to the prosecution's use of his two earlier, uncounseled misdemeanor domestic abuse convictions in Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court.

The *Bryant* opinion begins with a sobering recitation of statistics with respect to the rates of intimate partner violence experienced by Native women. It then relates the historical limitations on tribal, state and federal jurisdiction in Indian Country that have permitted serial domestic violence offenders to escape serious punishment. *Bryant* characterizes Section 117(a), which targets such serial offenders (making it a federal crime for any person to commit a do-

mestic assault within Indian country if the person has at least two prior final convictions for domestic violence rendered in federal, state or Indian tribal court proceedings), as "the first true effort to remove these recidivists from the communities that they repeatedly terrorize." 579 U.S. \_\_ (2016) slip op. at 6 (quoting from the dissent of Owens, J., from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decision denying rehearing en banc in the case).

That stage-setting complete, the opinion elaborates on the Justices' rationale that use of the defendant's uncounseled tribal-court convictions as predicate offenses in a Section 117(a) prosecution did not violate the defendant's rights. In the court's view, simply put, those convictions were valid when entered—since the Sixth Amendment right does not apply in tribal-court proceedings—and they retained that valid status when invoked in a subsequent proceeding.

Justice Clarence Thomas, while agreeing that Supreme Court precedent dictates *Bryant's* result, filed a concurring opinion to express his view that "[i]t is time that the Court reconsider these precedents."

The concurring opinion characterizes those precedents as based on "amorphous and ahistorical assumptions about the scope of tribal sovereignty," and, contradictorily, based on the "fiction" that Congress has plenary "unfettered power" and "all-encompassing control" over Native nations.

In upholding the felony repeat-offender provisions of the VAWA, the Court preserved what is widely viewed by Indian country and federal prosecutors as a crucial law enforcement tool against perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

*WBA member Eva Marie Carney is a securities regulatory partner with the Washington, D.C. office of Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and an elected representative to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Legislature.*

## OTC continued...

"Federal law protecting tribal sovereignty interests preempts and invalidates the State's sales tax on the Nation's sales in question," Justice Boudreau said in his decision. "We are grateful to read the final decision by former Supreme Court Justice Boudreau," stated Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John Barrett. "It confirms what we've said all along. The state government acted unlawfully in its attempt to tax tribal enterprises operating on Indian trust land."

Part of the evidence provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation during ar-

bitration was research conducted by Joseph P. Kalt, the Ford Foundation Professor (Emeritus) of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

"I believe the evidence I talk about in my report is clear that, in fact, the State of Oklahoma does not have any uncompensated burdens," Kalt stated. "In fact, it's benefiting from having a wealthy neighbor - or getting (a) wealthier neighbor that is producing its own GDP now, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, that benefits the State of Oklahoma. Any tax the State of Oklahoma imposes, which reduces the incremental contributions of the CPN, makes its neighbor poorer,

will tend to make Oklahoma poorer. Now, that's of the facts of this situation. That's not necessarily true everywhere. It's just that you're sitting next to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

The arbitration award was affirmed on June 21, 2016 by United States District Judge Robin Cauthron. The State of Oklahoma has until Sept. 19, 2016 to file its brief for the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## VISIT US ONLINE!





# PLP present projects to impact tribe

Each year, the students in the Potawatomi Leadership Program spend much of their six-week internship completing projects to benefit the tribe.

“It is an intentionally open-ended project,” said CPN Department of Education Director Tesia Zientek. “They are to come up with a project that impacts the tribe in some way. That’s all we tell them because we want them to be creative and use their gifts and interests to come up with something unique to them.”

The students presented their projects to CPN leadership, family and friends on July 27 in the tribal legislative chambers, which initiated discussion and brainstorming on how to implement these five plans.

“They’ve gone above and beyond what we expected of them this year, and I’m extremely proud,” Zientek said.

**Bodewadmi madmowen**

Randy Bazhaw and Matthew Clift chose to create a drum song called “*Bodewadmi madmowen*,” which means Potawatomi prayer, in the hopes of bringing the tribe together as a whole. This song can be sung in sweats, drum circles and other ceremonies as a prayer to the Creator.

“When we came up with the idea, we were sitting around the talking circle at the eagle aviary,” Clift said. “When we got into pairs, it just kind of hit me. This is what we are going to do. We are going to create a song. It was definitely spiritual and very clear.”

With help from the Squirrel Creek Drum Group and CPN Language Director Justin Neely, they created a song that can be passed down to generations. Bazhaw and Clift were prompted to choose this as a project because they couldn’t locate any Citizen Potawatomi-specific honor songs, and they saw that as a problem they could tackle.

“This process was culturally enlightening. We learned so much about the drum and our culture,” Bazhaw said. “Just knowing that in 70 years this song could be sung in many different settings is touching.”

**Reusable bag program**

Tom Brunt and Susannah Howard called upon their environmental



*The male PLP participants sang several songs during their presentations to directors, legislators and executive administrators as part of the program’s conclusion.*

studies backgrounds to create their project. The pair created a reusable bag program that promotes recycling at each of the CPN enterprises.

“We’ve noticed that we are producing a lot of plastic bags and there are no places to recycle them,” Howard said. “In our research, we found that others before us have had similar ideas, but customers don’t have the incentive to use reusable bags. So we’ve decided to add an incentive to the customer, which is five cents off of their purchase for each reusable bag used.”

Brunt and Howard designed a reusable bag that informs users of all of the enterprises CPN has. By promoting these enterprises, the goal is to create a way to offset the cost of the incentive by encouraging the users to shop at other tribal enterprises. They would also like to educate the community of how plastic bags impact the environment.

FireLake Discount Foods’ three locations spend more than \$150,000 each year buying plastic bags, which equals 7.5 million plastic bags each year. The pair suggests to buy the first batch of reusable bags with discretionary funds in the environmental department’s budget and secure grant funding in the future.

“To me, an added bonus of using a grant is the requirement of an educational component. Educating people is where the problem can really be solved,” Brunt said.

**CPN documentary**

Aden Eilers and Aaron Stevenson worked on a plan for a 10-15-minute documentary about CPN’s growth from the 1970s to the present day. The duo created an outline, script and 1.5-minute teaser to showcase their work.

“We plan to distribute the documentary on the CPN website, YouTube and social media,” Stevenson said. “We can also show it at new-hire orientation because right now they have a documentary that shows the history of the tribe up to 1970.”

Governmental changes, growth of enterprises and trust land, and relevant federal laws will all be included. They will hand the project off to the public information department who will see the task to completion.

**Potawatomi Youth Program**

Alyssa Frey and Katherine Smith proposed a free two-day program for tribal youth to incorporate into the annual Family Reunion Festival called the Potawatomi Youth Program. The program will be an educational setting where children and teenagers can learn more about CPN’s culture and traditional teachings.

“The goals for the program are to get CPN young adults more involved in the culture, government and the history of the Potawatomi,” Smith said. “The program will join in the tribe’s effort to educate and encourage future leaders.”

The pair created a curriculum of cultural teachings, crafts and even designed workbooks for the PYP. They would like to gift the participants with regalia so they could join in dancing at Grand Entry. They suggested that former PLP would teach the classes, which would allow them to give back to youth and stay involved in the tribe.

“One of the reasons we wanted to create this program was to educate tribal youth,” Frey said. “Growing up, neither one of us really got a chance to learn about our culture or traditions very much. We both knew we were Potawatomi and that was the extent of it. So we want to give back what we learned in the PLP to kids so that they can grow up more immersed in our culture.”

**Get to know your legislator**

Zoe Gustason and Sage Hanson suggested a project to make it clear to the Potawatomi people who their legislators are and that they were accessible to get to know each tribal member in their region. To do this, they wanted to revamp the legislator’s page on the CPN website to add written biographies and on-camera interviews for each tribal legislator.

“I think most people have this idea that their regional representative doesn’t have much time to talk to them,” Hanson said. “But it’s different with the Potawatomi, I’ve noticed, because you don’t become a legislator unless you really want to bring people together as a community.”

They presented a mock interview with District 10 Legislator David Barrett, who answered the question “What does being Potawatomi mean to you?” They also suggested that these digital interviews can also be used to teach CPN members about the wisdom of their elders.

Each of the project presentations encouraged brainstorming from audience members who asked questions and suggested ways to make these plans possible to positively impact CPN.

To learn more about the PLP, please visit [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org).

## UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH TRIBAL ROLLS



Is your address information updated with CPN Tribal Rolls? In the next year, the tribal government will examine population numbers across the U.S. for legislative redistricting. It is vital that we have your most up-to-date address information.

Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.



# New federal rules aimed at payday loans may not be enough to curb cycle of debt

In the coming year, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will enforce new rules on predatory lenders, also known as payday lenders, who offer short-term loans with expensive fees.

Critics of the rules claim that the crackdown will have a dire impact on those who use payday loan services. Typically the 12 million Americans who take out at least one payday loan a year are underbanked for a litany of reasons, including a lack of nearby financial institutions offering short term loans or poor credit on part of the person seeking the loan.

As noted in a recent article by Ken Sweet in the *Associated Press*, the issue for consumers utilizing this financial tool is that they get caught up in renewal fees.

According to [the piece](#), “the majority of payday loans are renewed or extended...which means a customer cannot come up with the full sum to pay off the loans and must re-borrow the loan for a fee. Roughly 60 percent of all loans are renewed at least once, and 22 percent of all loans are renewed at least seven times, according to a 2014 study by the CFPB.”

The [new CFPB rules](#) aim to offer a national standard to curb these expensive renewals by forcing lenders to determine the customer’s ability to repay their initial loan. For consumers who don’t meet these requirements, the CFPB also proposes something called a “principal pay-off option” for short-term and long-term loans that allow access to credit while curbing the practices that keep



*There are more payday loan locations in the U.S. than either McDonald's or Starbucks.*

them in cycles of indebtedness to predatory loan lenders. They would also limit the times that a customer could renew the loan.

Consumer Advocates like Tina Pollard, a consumer lending manager with the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, remain skeptical of how effective the new rules will be. She notes the current loopholes in Oklahoma’s regulations on the industry, including a “cooling off period” intended to keep consumers from continually renewing loans they cannot repay. Currently, even if a predatory loan lender refuses to do business with a customer who is having trouble paying off existing loans, they can go to another lender without any impediment.

“It is not working. Even if the customer passes the means test, nothing stops them from going to another storefront and bypassing the law

completely. These laws will only work if there is a mandatory tracking system for these kinds of loans,” said Pollard.

Yet for people with bruised credit scores who can’t qualify for credit cards or small bank loans, tracking procedures such as credit checks with credit agencies would do more harm than good. As anyone who has attempted to secure an automobile loan will know, just a pull to examine credit worthiness from a lender can drop a score. This problem is exacerbated with an individual with a poor credit score.

Noted Pollard, “If there was some kind of credit reporting system for payday lenders independent of the three major bureaus, these laws would work in the way they were intended, but just creating these laws with no way to track if someone is abusing the system is going to fail to protect anyone.”

Pollard explained that she doesn’t necessarily fault the bureau for its rules though.

“A good solution is a complex question. I think a federal APR cap would be most appropriate. The problem is that the CFPB is the only agency who has the ability to enforce the cap, but when the agency was created, Congress restricted them from imposing any kind of rate caps.”

When Pollard asked a representative of the bureau of their inability to track consumers floating from one lender to another, they voiced their concern with the issue but offered no feasible solution.

For now, consumer advocate organizations like the CPCDC will continue to offer what services they can to help break the cycle of reliance on short term, high cost loans offered by payday lenders. The [Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation](#) has undertaken the task of providing similar, but significantly cheaper services, to tribal employees and members in need of a short term loan or loans that can help build credit. To stem the tide of those ensnared by predatory loan costs, finance professionals like Pollard are there to help. As a certified credit counselor, she works with clients from all walks of life who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves turning to these kinds of lending institutions.

To learn more about the services of the CPCDC or how you can help improve your credit score, please visit [www.cpcdc.org](http://www.cpcdc.org) or call 405-878-4697.

## Gathering 2016 closes at Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Despite searing July temperatures on the first official day of the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, more than 2,000 tribal members and their invited guests from the nine Potawatomi tribes travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma to celebrate the annual event.

For the eight tribes outside of Oklahoma, a “short” drive for members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi proved to be the easiest journey to Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters. The distances travelled were:

**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation:** Mayetta, Kansas – 350 miles

**Pokagon Band of Potawatomi:** Dowagiac, Michigan – 872 miles

**Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi:** Shelbyville, Michigan – 928 miles

**Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi:** Fulton, Michigan – 928 miles

**Forest County Potawatomi Tribe:** Crandon, Wisconsin – 1,051 miles

**Hannahville Indian Community:** Wilson, Michigan – 1,079 miles

**Walpole Island First Nation:** Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada – 1,099 miles

**Wasauksing First Nation:** Perry Island, Ontario, Canada – 1,375 miles

At the annual Potawatomi Language Conference hosted by the CPN Cultural Heritage Center and the CPN Language Department, 300 speakers, teachers and students spent two days immersing themselves in the language of the Potawatomi people. This core of Potawatomi language professionals practiced teaching techniques, development strategies and spoke to one another in Potawatomi, displaying the dedication necessary to keep the language alive.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation honored a well-known Potawatomi teacher, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation’s



*Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett during Saturday’s Grand Entry.*

Don Perrot, for his lifetime of service in keeping the language alive. In a ceremony with fellow leaders of the eight other tribes in attendance, CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett christened the road leading to

the CPN Cultural Heritage Center as *Neasano*.

“It is said ‘one cannot tell where we are going without knowing where we have been,’” noted Chairman Barrett. “It was the incredible gift of this knowledge that Don Perrot gave us, and not without personal risk for himself...His advice in times of personal crisis as a Potawatomi elected leader was precious to me. I will be grateful all of my days. We will be grateful forever.”

After three full days of food, festivities and fostering closer Potawatomi ties, Chairman Barrett handed off the ceremonial eagle staff – held by the host of the Gathering the year prior to the event – to Chief Dan Miskokomon of the Walpole Island First Nation, hosts of the 2017 event.



# Miss Potawatomi crowned at 2016 Gathering

Four young women competed in the annual Miss Potawatomi Pageant during the 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in July. These ladies had to be 13-19 years of age and demonstrate their knowledge of the Potawatomi culture in order to compete.

Enedina Banks, who works in CPN’s language department, organized the pageant at the Gathering, which reminded her of holding a similar title.

“When I was a little girl – my daughter’s age - I won my school’s Indian Princess [title],” Banks said. “When I would go to powwows, my mother would remind me that I am representing my school and tribe while I’m holding this title. I would shake everyone’s hand and welcome them to the powwow. When a visitor would need assistance, I would volunteer.”

While the former Miss Potawatomi, Dania Wahwasuck of the Prairie Band, held the title during 2015-16, she hosted essay and coloring contests, volunteered at the elder center and did what she could to make the younger children look up to her, Banks told the *Hownikan*.

“Our criteria and expectations were important; these girls are role models,” Banks said. “I’m proud that we got to do it and that it was inclusive. Most bands participated in one way or another.”

Each contestant was to be confident, capable of communicating clearly and knowledgeable of tribal culture.



Mary Bush

Contestants filled out an application, which included essays answering why they want the ambassador title, who their role models are and how the Potawatomi culture has influenced their lives. For the pageant, each contestant was to introduce herself in the Potawatomi language, make a speech fewer than five minutes long and explain and perform her talent.

Anna Rhodd Brimm is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and attends Konawa High School in Konawa, Oklahoma. She is 15 years old and begins her sophomore year in high school in the fall. For her talent, she sang a traditional song in the Potawatomi language.

Mary Bush, from Shelbyville, Michigan, shared her talent of hoop dancing and storytelling.

She is 14 years old and a member of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish (Gun Lake) Tribe.

Paulina Davison is a CPN member and former PLP participant. Davison is 19 years old and a junior at Arizona State University. She sang the white eagle song and played the hand drum for her talent.

Sophia Suke, a member of the Prairie Band, attends Kickapoo Nation School and lives in Mayetta, Kansas. She is 14 years old and will be a freshman in the fall. She shared her beading talent with the judges, informing them that she also made much of her regalia.

Banks was pleased that the judges who were asked to evaluate the competitors took selecting the winner very seriously.

Not only did they read the applications and judged the speeches and talent, but they also watched how the girls interacted at the Friday night powwow before crowning the winner on Saturday evening.

The judges were Noreena Meshigaud Dwyer, from the Hannahville Potawatomi Tribe, Linda George, from Walpole Island First Nation, and Melissa Forester and Danielle Pfeifer, from the Nottawaseppi Huron Band. None of the judges were members of the participants’ tribes.

“These girls go from community to community to represent all the bands of Potawatomi. The girls who run for this are serious about it. The contestants all presented themselves in a good way and it was very hard to judge them,” Banks said.

During crowning on Friday, July 29, it was announced that the judges chose Mary Bush to be Miss Potawatomi 2016-17. Bush, who is a member of the Eagle clan, has worked with her tribe to develop a tribal youth council and was selected to be the inaugural chairperson.

“I plan to dedicate my time as Miss Potawatomi to provide opportunities and a voice that is desperately needed,” Bush said. “I intend to participate in a variety of cultural events and with many national organizations to share this message.”

# Human Resources Department grows to serve 2,400 tribal employees

Few employers have undergone the growth in economic and personnel terms like that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has in the past decade. Once an employer of just more than 200, today the tribe now employs approximately 2,400 at its commercial enterprises and tribal departments. Each Monday, at least 10 new employees arrive at the tribal administration building for job orientations. To help manage current and future employment needs, the CPN Human Resources Department expanded as well, and the *Hownikan* spoke with some of its newest employees.

**Samantha Thomas:**

“Originally I am from a small town, Howard, Kansas...”

“HR was an area of concentration through my studies at St. Gregory’s University. I am employed at CPN as a human resources generalist and I am responsible for recruiting and hiring new employees, adding new positions to [FireLakeJobs.com](#) and suspensions and terminations...”

“My biggest challenge is my sense of empathy; People are not perfect, yet they need to be held accountable...”

“The aspect I enjoy the most is having the ability to have a positive impact on people...”

**Lane Howard:**

“I am from Shawnee originally and have lived here my entire life...”

“Before coming here I worked in HR departments at the Hobby Lobby warehouse and George Fischer. I applied here because it was a good opportunity to further my career in my hometown...”

“I’m an HR generalist, responsibly handling personnel issues for various departments across CPN. So my day-to-day responsibilities are really dependent on what my managers need from me at a given time...”

“I enjoy working with the people the most. The biggest challenge in HR is making sure I’ve done all my due diligence when it comes to making decisions...”



Samantha Thomas, Lane Howard and Amy Stinger.

**Amy Stinger:**

“I am from Shawnee, Oklahoma...”

“Before I came to CPN I worked at my family’s daycare...”

“I am a tribal member from the Bourbonnais family...”

“My position is as an HR assistant. I have always loved office work and wanted to work for CPN so I applied for everything I could and luckily I

was offered my position. I am at the front door so I greet and direct anyone who comes in or calls. I assist everyone in HR with anything that they need done and I take any mail or paperwork for HR to the person it belongs to...

“The biggest challenge for me is situations where people are very angry. On the positive side, I really like getting to meet and know so many different people...”



## CPN hosts annual Potawatomi language conference

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center hosted more than 300 tribal members from nine Potawatomi tribes at a language conference in conjunction with the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations.

Justin Neely, CPN's director of language for 11 years, has been to every Potawatomi language conference since the early 2000s.

"I thought overall it went smoothly and we had a nice mixture of presentations," Neely said. "We had classes for beginners and people who are a little more advanced, kids' activities and hands-on classes. One lesson featured Kevin Finney making birch bark boxes using the language; in another, James Aquash talked about old songs. We also played the card game Old Maid in the language and Potawatomi bingo – or *shishibe*."

Several elders who grew up speaking the language were asked to present at the conference. Aquash was among them, mentioning that Potawatomi was the only language his grandmother, who raised him, had ever known. As he grew up, Aquash explained that he had lost his way in terms of becoming distanced from his Potawatomi heritage. Yet he found his way back to his culture by speaking the language.

"It's a wonderful thing to get to meet people and speak the language together," the Walpole Island First Nation Band member said. "I want to keep it a living language."

Pokagon Potawatomi Band member and social services intern Samantha Wilson told the *Hownikan* that she enjoyed Aquash's presentation. She is currently studying social work at Western Michigan University.

"I looked at [Aquash's] session from a social work perspective. I like to see how people cope with different hardships in their lives. It was neat to hear the speaker say that when you are sad you turn to what makes you feel like home and the Potawatomi language was home to him. It was a



CPN Language Aid Ivan Ozbolt and Language Director Justin Neely read Potawatomi words selected during Potawatomi bingo.

comfort and something he could use to build upon himself and get better."

Wilson and Pokagon Band members took a bus to Oklahoma by way of the Trail of Death – the forced removal of the Potawatomi people from the Great Lakes in 1838. Marissa Adcock, a Pokagon Band member, meditated on those who lost their lives while stopping at landmarks honoring the trail.

"We drove through the Trail of Death and that was hard. I can't imagine being forced to hike through it," Adcock said. "I think the language conference is important to our tribe's growth. We're growing economically and in size as generations grow. It's important that the language doesn't die out because it is part of how we survived and everything our tribe had to go through to become a sovereign nation."

Another fluent Potawatomi speaker, Jim Thunder of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe presented with his students at the conference. They taught sentence structure using a humorous story about his uncle and a Model A Ford. He told the *Hownikan* that, with the help of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his Potawatomi language teaching series will soon be available nationwide.

His student, Carla Collins of the Pokagon Band, is one of the first to partake in the language apprenticeship program. She moved 400 miles from home to Crandon, Wisconsin with her two children to participate in the program.

"It is a really good opportunity. A lot of people would love the chance to work with Jim because he is a wealth of knowledge," Collins said. "Originally, I just wanted to learn how to speak Potawatomi and teach my kids, but now that I have realized the more you learn, the greater responsibility you have to teach more people. When I complete the program, I will move to the Pokagon Band and have a five-year contract with them."

CPN Language Director Neely was also excited [to learn from Thunder](#).

"I was really happy he was able to come down because people enjoy his presentations. He is a superior speaker," Neely said. "I definitely learned a lot from Jim. Some of the first language tapes that I got were taught by Jim Thunder in 1998. My mother got them for me for Christmas."

Near the end of the conference, the employees of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band's Cultural Center honored their counterparts from the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, Kelli Mo-

steller Ph.D, Blake Norton and Neely for hosting a great language conference and assisting them in creating their own heritage center.

"In order for tribes to remain sovereign, language is the first essential step," Nottawaseppi Huron member and employee Danielle Pfeifer said. "Our cultural department was born out of the revitalization of the language. It is the direct line to our Creator."

"Our goal was to create a laid back environment where people felt comfortable learning the language and using it," Neely said. "I hope tribal members realize that this is our language to make mistakes with, to learn, and not take too seriously. The most important thing is to use it in your day-to-day lives and teach your kids and grandkids."

That is exactly what Rhonda Purcell – a member and language program coordinator at the Pokagon Band – does with her three children. In their home, she and her husband utilize their children's Potawatomi names, commands, household items and everyday language in their native tongue.

"The survival of the language lies within the youth," Purcell urges fellow Potawatomi. "If there is any way you can influence your child's learning, please try to incorporate our language, even if it is just one word."

The Pokagon Band encourages all Potawatomi to utilize its language app, which is available for [free on iTunes](#) to anyone nationwide. The Prairie and Forest County bands also have apps that are available on iTunes.

If you missed out on the 2016 language conference, CHC Videographer Will Hogan broadcasted the language conference on YouTube where it is available for all who could not attend. Visit [cpn.news/YouTube](#) to watch these videos.

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# Legendary 19<sup>th</sup> century Potawatomi leader speaks from pages of “Memories of Shaubena”

The personalities of Native American leaders of the pre-removal era are less widely covered than their American counterparts. For every dozen chronicles of American statesmen or military leaders from the early 1800s, there are significantly fewer documented accounts relating the lives of tribal leaders of the same era. Though resources are few and far between, one account offers insight into the thoughts and experiences of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century tribal leader.

Written in 1880, author Nehemiah Matson chronicled the incredible life in “Memories of Shaubena.” Like many contemporaries in his time, Matson, a prodigious chronicler of Great Lakes-area tribes, sought to capture the fading American West in print. As with any account more than 130 years old, the language and terminology used by Matson appears out of place or even offensive in the present era. Yet his chronology of Shaubena’s experiences is infused with admiration.

As Matson notes in the book’s prologue, “The memory of Shaubena should be preserved, and a record of his beneficent deeds go down to posterity, so that coming generations may learn to honor the name of this noble red man.”

Born sometime between 1775 and 1776 in a village along the Kankakee River in what is today’s Will County, Illinois, Shaubena was the son of an Odawa (Ottawa) chief. His father and family had fled their traditional

homelands in Michigan after allying with the defeated Odawa leader Pontiac against the British in the French and Indian War. As a child, Shaubena and his family travelled from Illinois and resided in Canada for a time before returning to the village in which he was born. This journey proved to be the first of many in Shaubena’s life, as he would travel throughout what was then the farthest reaches of the American frontier.

His ties to the Potawatomi came as a young man, when he married the daughter of the Potawatomi Chief Spotka. Upon Spotka’s death, Shaubena became the tribe’s leader and later facilitated its move to a different village in modern-day De Kalb County. It was during his youth that Matson describes as two “Ottawa priests, or prophets,” who instructed Native Americans on a new system of religion. As a result of this affiliation, Shaubena travelled the region and grew familiar with a number of different tribes and their leaders, including with the legendary Shawnee leader Tecumseh. A friendship ensued and the Potawatomi leader journeyed extensively in the western lands bordering the nascent United States to gain Indian allies against further American encroachment. From stops with the Winnebagoes and Menomonees in modern-day Wisconsin to a months’ long journey south to live amongst the Creeks, Cherokees and Choctaws, Shaubena and Tecumseh steadily sought to



Nehemiah Matson's “Memories of Shaubena.”

build an alliance that could halt the westward American expansion.

The effort though, was doomed to failure. Years later, Shaubena explained to Matson that he was next to Tecumseh when the great Shawnee warrior was felled at the Battle of the Thames.

In 1816, he was amongst the signees of the Treaty of Saint Louis, which ceded many of the Indian lands between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers from Wisconsin, Illinois and St. Louis. This signing proved to be the first step in a long, sad journey for the Potawatomi leader and his people. Its end result would be his tribe’s banishment from their tradi-

tional homelands to a reservation in Kansas. Matson chronicles the circumstances of the situation facing the Potawatomi in 1836 when the federal government initiated what would become known as the Trail of Death.

“Their wigwams have disappeared from the groves, the smoke of their camp fires no longer ascends above the trees, the crack of their rifles and bay of their dogs are no more heard, their canoes are not seen on the rivers and lakes, and their once familiar war whoops have ceased to echo through the timber. The sacred places of the red man have been desecrated by the whites, and by them the graves of their fathers have been plowed over, and the guardian spirits watching over them driven away.”

The old chief’s connection to today’s Citizen Potawatomi Nation lives on through his daughter Mahnawbunokwe, who married the French trader Jean Baptiste Beubien.

The book, available online for free through Google’s Books platform, is as close to a primary account that one will find with a Potawatomi leader from the pre-removal era. While “Memories of Shaubena” may not be up to par with contemporary scholastic rigors, it provides a fascinating Native-centric perspective often lost in Western histories.

## FireLodge Tribal Youth update: September 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

With the summer behinds us we have jumped straight into fall sessions here at the FireLodge Tribal Youth Program. These include the:

**Get Native Program** - The tribal youth learned the histories of some of our neighboring native nations including the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation. After the classes were finished there was a Native Quiz Bowl with the winners receiving a prize. The Get Native Program is held two times a week and also includes a portion on Native arts, which helps youth develop a sense of creativity and cultural awareness through art.

**Get Smart Program** – Our after school homework help is designed to help each of our tribal youth program participants academically. This program runs from 4:15-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. for those who need extra help.

Each tribal youth member and their parents filled out the forms called

‘My Success Plan’ that will be a guide to help each youth set academic goals and to succeed during the upcoming school year.

Our college preparation course also began again. This program will broaden the youths’ knowledge of college life and opportunities. This program will also teach them about the circumstances facing them as college students and how to apply for higher education institutions and scholarship opportunities.

As part of our focused events, we will hold our annual Suicide Prevention Fun Run on September 24. We expect around 275 participants who will receive an event t-shirt and a water bottle. Participants can do the 1.5 mile course or the 5k run. The 5k is for the most serious runners with medals given in different divisions. We will also release yellow balloons to commemorate those lost to suicide.

The tribal youth department hosted the JA for the Day program at middle schools in Shawnee and Tecumseh. This program fosters work-readiness



Jacob Parker, Kyndal Jenkins and McKenzie Lupo.

and financial literacy for students.

**Get Fit Program** - The youth were introduced to yoga and basic exercises in order to get fit, including jump rope challenges and Native American lacrosse and stickball competitions. Each of our participants who complete their assigned work and academic programs during the week

are rewarded with visits to FireLake Bowling Center, FireLake Mini-Putt and trips to the local pool while temperatures are still hot.

If you have a tribal youth that would be interested in our FireLodge Tribal Youth or PLACE programs, please call 405-214-5110 or email [dgreene@potawatomi.org](mailto:dgreene@potawatomi.org).



# Heritage center reconstruction moves forward with museum floor

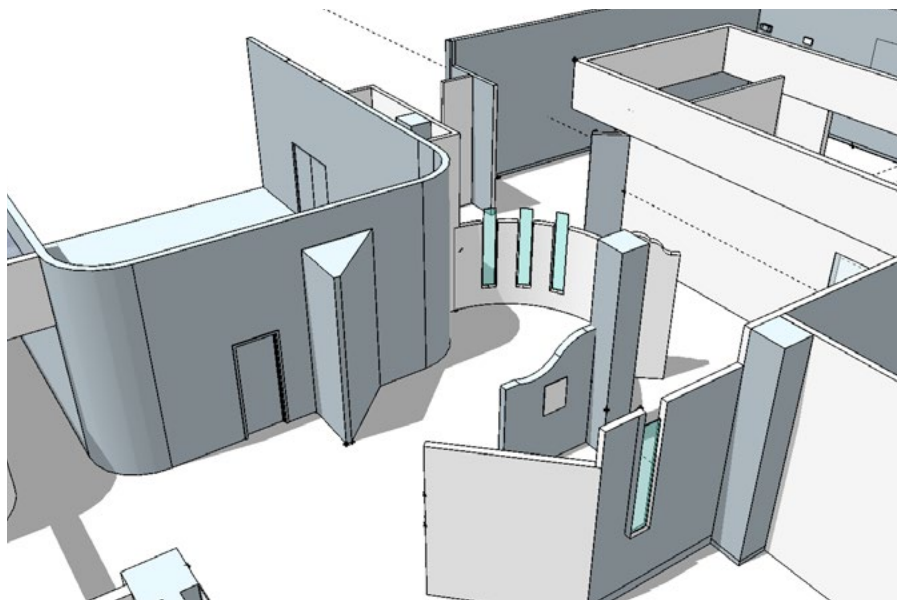
Since Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, the employees at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center have focused on completing the museum floor. Curator and Archivist Blake Norton, CHC Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., and Audio and Video Production Manager Will Hogan – a member of the Chickasaw Nation – explained to the *Hownikan* what tribal members should expect and how the plans are coming together.

## What is the vision for section two of the exhibit?

**Norton:** “Section two is dedicated to the traditional and cultural origins of the people. This will be conveyed via ancient oral stories and histories that are recognized, honored and told by all Neshnabek - Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodéwadmí. They will educate visitors on the origins of the world and its first inhabitants as well as its destruction and rebuilding. Viewers will learn about ancient medicines and botanicals, and how they were utilized by our early healing and spiritual societies. Spirits and the origins of our first clan-based society are central themes to these coveted narratives, in addition to the role they played in everyday life after our migration from the east coast to the Great Lakes.

“Related to each story will be satellite displays that narrow the focus and exhibit in greater detail key topics that include, but are not limited to: ancient technologies, flora and fauna, our sacred directions and the symbiotic relationships people have with the world around them.”

**Mosteller:** “Section two will introduce 10 Potawatomi oral traditions



A render of section eight. Design is subject to change.

via short videos created by CPN staff members. They will include, but are not limited to, the Potawatomi creation story, the story of first man going out into the world to name things and the flood story.

“This somewhat serves as a bridge between sections one and three. The oral traditions of our tribe are rooted in the Great Lakes Region. The animals, plants, and other features of the stories reiterate the teachings that were given to us in the Seven Fires Prophecy, which tells that the Creator meant for the Neshnabe people to live where food grows on water (indicating the wild rice beds of the Great Lakes). This section flows over into section three that will introduce Potawatomi lifeways.”

## What goes into creating one of these videos?

**Hogan:** “Section two will consist mostly of TV screens that will be playing videos that tell traditional Potawatomi origin stories, like the

creation of the universe and the first man. We’ve had lots of discussion about the style and tone of these videos, and plan to stay close to the aesthetics of section one, not just here, but in all of the sections. Consistency is key in design and we feel it will make the sections not only feel professional, but improve how they all work together to tell the Potawatomi story.

“Curator and Archivist Blake Norton selected 10 stories, and then I will transcribe them into a script-like format. This will allow Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham at the CPN Eagle Aviary to know what to draw. In addition to the amazing things they do every day at the aviary, they have tremendous artistic ability. They will scan their drawings and send them to Trey DeLonais, a graphic artist in the public information department. He gives them color and does a lot of other editing. You can see their amazing combined efforts in the animals displayed in section one.

“For section two, Trey will provide me with versions of the art that I can use in the videos. From there I begin building audio, whether it is music, voices, sound effects, and so on, and animate the artwork to the audio. It is a daunting task for a staff of this size but I believe the end results will speak for themselves.

“From Jennifer and Bree’s drawings, Trey’s digital work, and my production, these videos will be produced 100 percent at CPN by members of a Native American tribe. I think that’s an important fact because it means these stories will be treated with the seriousness and reverence that they deserve, and they will be told from an authentically native point of view. I believe that’s the most important thing that we do here at the Cultural Heritage Center, and it means a lot to me personally as well.”

## What is the vision for section eight?

**Mosteller:** “Section eight will focus on our time in Kansas. There are many social and political changes in this time period, which ranges from the mid-1830s to the early 1870s. Some of our themes will include the consolidation on Kansas River Reservation, the treaties of the 1860s, leadership, the difficult transition to a new way of life on the plains and national events that were impacting our ancestors, like the Civil War and the Oregon Trail running through the Kansas reservation.”

To learn more about the progress of the museum construction and cultural heritage center activities, please visit [www.potawatomiheritage.org](http://www.potawatomiheritage.org).

## Reintegration continued...

“All it did was make me angry because I felt like I needed to be in a place where they were going to help me better myself,” he explained. “When I got out, they threw me a \$200 food stamp card and whatever I had saved in there. Then I came out, and I was already drinking my first day after being sober the whole time I was away.”

Patadal said that many just need to know someone is there for them.

“I always tell them, ‘If you want to do it, I’ll help you do it.’ If we want them (felons) off the streets, you’ve got to help them,” he said.

To White, he felt he’d been cast about with no support structure and little direction.

“I had no foundation, nothing to keep me going really,” said White. “When you’re a grown man, you think you can go out and walk the face of this world. But when you’re an alcoholic or you’re a druggie, you’ve got a whole different outlook on what

you’re facing out there. It’ll tear you down, and it did me, several times.”

Falling under its jurisdiction due to his tribal heritage from the Kickapoo and Shawnee tribes, White was ordered by the CPN Tribal Court to take part in counseling sessions with Patadal. They were different from the Alcoholics Anonymous and alcohol rehabilitation classes he’d been a part of before. Patadal, a tribal elder and former member of the American Indian Movement, is an advocate of traditional Native American ceremonies like talking circles and sweat lodges. He hosts weekly versions of the former for Native ex-felons as they transition back to civilian life after prison. White soon became a regular at these gatherings, which he credits for his ongoing sobriety. Through an agreement with the courts, Patadal can count meeting attendance at these ceremonies that will deduct small court costs from their outstanding fines.

“I was tired of drinking and wanted to live a better life, I just didn’t know how to go about doing it,” White said. “I can talk all day about

getting sober and how I’m going to do it while I’m in rehab getting three meals, but once I come out in the real world you know, it’s a different story. I needed someone to lean on. I needed a hand and Burt was the one who stepped up.”

In Oklahoma, there are [two lists](#) of professions that are either barred from hiring felons, or can fire those already working due to a past felony. Advocates for reform largely do not support opening *all jobs* to ex-felons. However, bans remain in effect for licenses in professions such as interior designers, embalmers and landscape architects. Those who do get hired for jobs like drug and alcohol counselors, clinical social workers or real estate sales can be fired simply for having a felony on their record, no matter how much time has passed since the crime was committed.

White’s previous experience working in the oil fields provided him a skill set that has allowed him to find work at a local tire shop whose owner knows Patadal and trusts his recommendations on potential employees.

Yet White explained that his previous convictions remain a blemish on his record that hampers his prospects, especially if non-felons apply for the same job.

“Automatically I’m branded ‘bad.’ It doesn’t even matter what that felony is for...you’re branded and they’re not going to look into what you did, unless they need help really bad.”

In order to be up front about his felony record, White would note on applications that asked that it was for a DUI.

“But DUI automatically meant, ‘hey he’s a drunk,’” said White.

While practical challenges like these perceptions remain, advocates like Patadal will continue to work towards solutions. He points to White as one of the success stories, an example he can cite to employers who trust his recommendation when considering hiring an ex-felon.

To learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal Re-Integration Program, call 405-598-0797.



# Tribal member Creed Humphrey ranked among top three lineman prospects in the U.S.

CPN members in Oklahoma have likely been reading about a Citizen Potawatomi in their local newspapers if they're fans of high school and college football. Shawnee, Oklahoma's Creed Humphrey made headlines in early August as he announced he was changing his college plans after initially committing to play football at Texas A&M University.

"After long thought and prayer I have decided to decommit from Texas A&M University and have decided to further my education and athletic career at the University of Oklahoma!" announced Humphrey via his Twitter account.

According to [www.247sports.com](http://www.247sports.com), Humphrey is the U.S.' number three recruit at the center position. The Peltier family member is entering his senior year at Shawnee High School, and was featured in a recent profile in the state's largest newspaper, [The Oklahoman](http://TheOklahoman.com), following his participation at Nike's "The Opening"



*Creed Humphrey during the first day of practice at Shawnee High School.  
Photo courtesy of Kent Bush of the Shawnee News-Star.*

competition. Drawing highly rated prospects from around the country, Nike hosts football skills competitions each summer to showcase their talents for college coaches and re-

cruiters. As noted in the *Oklahoman*, Humphrey is responsible for calling the team's blocking protection, meaning long hours in the film room and in meetings with coaches.

"Being ranked as a top prospect in the nation is a true blessing to me," said Humphrey. "It shows me that the hard work that I have been putting into this sport for so long is now paying off in big ways."

At 6-foot-5 and 310 pounds, Humphrey's commitment to polishing his skills on the football field might only be surpassed by his dedication to his 4.0 grade point average. He explained his primary focus came in the classroom above all else. At OU he plans on majoring in business.

"I put schoolwork before athletics all the time. If I'm doing bad in class, I'll miss a practice to make up homework and everything like that," he told *The Oklahoman's* Joe Buettner.

Humphrey's name will likely become more familiar to University of Oklahoma football fans in the coming years, but until then, he can be found on the Friday night gridiron of Shawnee High School.

## Tribal employment and training programs boosted after Senate action

The U.S. Senate accomplished something in late July that it doesn't typically do. It unanimously passed legislation introduced by senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) that, if signed into law, will strengthen tribal employment and training programs nationwide.

For Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Employment and Training Program, the proposed legislation is viewed positively as it seeks to streamline budgetary and payment processing practices at the federal level. It also makes departments like CPN's, called 477 programs, which are utilized by hundreds of tribes across the U.S., permanent in the eyes of federal authorities.

"It is a big deal to get this law changed from a 'demonstration' to an 'act,'" commented CPN Employment and Training Assistant Director Margaret Zientek. "We have been operating as a 'demonstration,' which some of the federal partners view as a temporary measure or a project."

This view from the federal level has caused delays for tribal entities seeking to secure *all* the funds they are legally entitled to in a timely manner. Confusion and disagree-

ments as to the nature of the tribal 477 programs by federal agencies has created headaches for both sides, something that the senate bill aims to solve.

Senators Murkowski and Sullivan introduced the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015 to make the 477 program permanent, expand the types and sources of funding available, resolve plan approval and appeal processes, and ensure that funds will be transferred and require only one report. The bill will be carried in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Don Young (R-AK).

"This new law allows us to expand eligible programs for employment and training, and we'll be able to identify and move competitive grants under these new changes too. We can also use the funds for matching requirements on new grants, which allows us to use our money as a self-governance tribe in the best way we know how," explained Zientek.

There is a need for verifiable accounting practices of federal funds legally obligated for use by self-governance tribes like Citizen Potawatomi Nation. However, the Orwellian structure of oversight and delays in these issues were troublesome for tribes.



*The CPN Employment and Training Department in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.*

In several instances, tribal employment and training programs like CPN's faced confusing and contradictory directives from federal agencies responsible for the funds distributions. Though CPN's program is based off a federally agreed upon plan centered on an annual budget, the federal agency in charge of distributing the funds insisted upon quarterly disbursements. This change, made with little explanation and no consultation with the tribe, caused serious issues with the program's services on the ground in Oklahoma. To compound the problems, the funds weren't disbursed in

a timely matter, with monies often coming in the quarters after they were initially due.

At CPN, the hope is that these issues can be resolved with the new legislation and tribes will be able to move forward in further developing their employment and training programs for the betterment of their communities.

As Zientek put it upon hearing the news about the bill's passage from the Senate, "I am looking forward to the House passing the bill and putting a stop to this fight!"



## CPN Veterans report: September 2016



By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

*Bozho,*

The 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations was a great success for the CPN veterans. We had approximately 80 attendees at our meeting of all tribal groups. Our Saturday

morning meeting and greeting session in the CPN North Reunion Hall was a memorable event. Each veteran introduced themselves and shared with the group some information about their service.

One veteran shared his personal experiences with PTSD. It was a very difficult and brave step he took in

telling about his struggle and recovery, noting that is an ongoing and long process. Combat is a life changing ordeal that almost every soldier must face. It challenges their faith, spirit and conscience. From this warrior's door opening step, several others began to share their own struggles with war demons. Everyone praised their courage in speaking openly about their own battles with the horrific memories of the war. It brought us all together as brothers in arms. *Migwetch* brothers.

As a member of the CPN Veterans Organization's Color Guard, I have noticed that many people do not know what they should do when the American flag is brought in to the arena. Standing is announced, but saluting is not. Nor is it suggested when the Flag Song or national anthem is sung. Veterans are taught this in their basic training, but it is not just for

veterans. It is proper for all Americans to salute the American flag, the Flag Song and the national anthem. Any time the American flag passes you in a parade, you should stand, if you're able, and salute by placing your right hand over your heart. Or, if you are a veteran, you may give a hand salute, with or without a hat. I would like to see more Americans showing their respect at events when the flag and song are presented. *Migwetch*.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the CPN North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation BY THE NUMBERS

### 📍 DISTRICT 6

Total Tribal Population **2,090**  
Scholarships in Spring 2016 **53**

#### Most Populous CPN cities:

Bakersfield, CA **172**  
Las Vegas, NV **155**  
San Diego, CA **71**  
Visalia, CA **66**  
Los Angeles, CA **63**

#### Age by population:

100+	<b>1</b>
90-99	<b>14</b>
80-89	<b>54</b>
70-79	<b>123</b>
60-69	<b>270</b>
50-59	<b>311</b>
40-49	<b>258</b>
30-39	<b>343</b>
20-29	<b>320</b>
13-19	<b>198</b>
01-12	<b>198</b>

CPN Legislative District 6 encompasses southern portions of Nevada and California.  
Information provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls

## TULSA-AREA CITIZEN POTAWATOMI

Don't miss an opportunity to see CPN artist Mathew Bearden's work on display at 108 Contemporary through September 25. Bearden's work is featured in "Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes."



108 E. M.B. BRADY STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.108CONTEMPORARY.ORG](http://WWW.108CONTEMPORARY.ORG)



# 2016 GATHERING OF POTAWATOMI NATIONS



*A birds eye view of the tribal grounds during Gathering.*



*Miss Potawatomi contestants.*



*Hand drum contest winners Ofelia and Arthur Zapata.*



*CPN tribal member Kristy Phillips was the first winner during the language conference bingo.*



*CPN Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett dances alongside Chief Dan Miskokomon of the Walpole Island First Nation of Canada during an honor dance of passing off the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations staff for them to host next year's annual event.*



*Tribal leaders from all eight Potawatomi tribes gathered at the Grand Event Center.*



*Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps unveiled the new street name for Potawatomi teacher Don Perrot (Neasano Drive).*



*Velma Wahwasuck*



*Karen Wahwasuck*



*Past and current PLP members gathered for a group photo on the final day of Gathering.*



# Tribal youth member participates in national Native pre-college program in Washington D.C.

By Trae Trousdale

I initially heard about the Native American Political Leadership Program’s INSPIRE Pre-College Summer Program during the summer between eighth and ninth grades. I applied the following summer, only to find out that they were accepting rising seniors and recent high-school graduates, so I committed the program to memory and applied in the winter of my junior year at Tecumseh High School.

I received an email congratulating me on my acceptance from a pool of hundreds of applicants and my INSPIRE experience began. I entered the program expecting to just learn the basics of how tribal governments interact with the federal government. However, after three weeks in our nation’s capital, I walked away with a completely different view of Native Americans and Indian Country’s effect on the modern political system.

The program teaches Native students how to adapt to both a collegiate and metropolitan climate. There was no “wake-up time” or “lights-out,” only advice such as “be mature enough to make your own decisions in Washington D.C.”

My day began at 8:15 a.m. when I would dress, walk to breakfast and report to class by 9 a.m. Our class covered a wide variety of subjects from political entrenchment and social change, to successful campaign-



Trae Trousdale (center) and the INSPIRE 2016 class.

ing procedures, tribal sovereignty and examinations of Indian Health Services.

For lunch we were allowed at all of the restaurants at the George Washington University campus, so there were plenty of options for me and the other nine members of my cohort. Following lunch, we would head to our afternoon meetings.

While in D.C., we had the opportunity to meet with organizations such as: the Administration for Native Americans, the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, the National Indian Gaming Association, the Navajo Nation, the National Indian Health Board and the Center for Native American Youth just to name a few. We also had

the opportunity to meet the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Michael Black; Public Affairs Director for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs (and a fellow Potawatomi) Nedra Darling; Oklahoma Representative Tom Cole; and the special assistant to the President for Native American Affairs, Karen Diver.

After completing our afternoon meetings, we had the rest of the day to ourselves when we could explore, have fun, or work on our projects that were due at the end of the program. My fellow cohort members and I had to quickly learn to prioritize our school work and to have an open line of communication with our residential assistants at all times. The program’s coursework was very

challenging; however, they provided us many opportunities to enjoy D.C. too. We were able to visit museums, tour the Department of the Interior, witness the Fourth of July celebration on the U.S. Capitol lawn, watch the sunrise from the National Mall and even got to bowl in the White House!

At the end of the program, each cohort member had to make a presentation representing an issue faced by their local community. After evaluating my surroundings and receiving guidance from CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, I was able to inform my peers of the taxation issue facing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the City of Shawnee.

The opportunity that the INSPIRE Program offers was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that God blessed me to be a part of, and I highly recommend that all Potawatomi youth look into participating in this three week pre-college program. I look forward to sharing my newfound knowledge with my peers, our tribal leadership and applying what I have learned to my possible future political career.

To learn more about the INSPIRE Native Teams Initiative, please visit <http://cpn.news/InspireCollege>.

## Tribal members eligible for home buyer and refinancing grant

By Sherry Byers,  
CPN Housing Department

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Authority (CPNHA) has a “One Time Grant” available to enrolled Tribal members who are going to purchase, build or refinance a home. This grant is for closing costs or down payment only.

All Citizen Potawatomi Tribal members are eligible for this grant for *one time only*. The maximum amount available is \$2,125 and does not have to be repaid. The criteria for this program are:

- The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home.
- The grant cannot be used by convicted felons or for households where other members are felons.
- The home being purchased must be their primary residence and the Tribal member’s name must be on the loan.

The application must be completed thoroughly and the following submitted:

- Copy of borrower’s CPN membership card.
- Copy of the “Loan Estimate” from lender.
- Income verification for all household members (last three to four pay stubs or if they’ve been with the same employer for years, the last two years of tax returns).
- Name of the Closing Entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.)
- Completed W-9 form.
- Copy of appraisal when available.

The application and support information is required in our office at least two to three weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork processed and the check mailed back to the tribal member by the specified date.

If the time frame does not allow the grant to be requested before closing, we can also do the grant after closing. Different documents will be requested and it must be requested within 30 days of the closing date.



A tribal housing department home in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

To request the application and/or general information regarding the “One Time Grant,” please contact Sherry Byers, Homeownership Manager at (405) 273-2833 or at [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this grant program, we would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s First National Bank & Trust benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB is able to offer most loan programs, offered by other lending institutions, except loan types affiliated with predatory lenders.

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at First

National Bank & Trust, please contact Jeff Scroggins, Mortgage Loan Officer at (405) 275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.

It is interesting to know that there are still many uninformed CPN members out there, when it comes to information regarding this program and the tribal bank. Our office receives calls daily from Tribal members that never knew of this grant or that the tribe owns their own bank. Please spread the word with your CPN family members.



# Potawatomi shares love of dance and cheer

Tribal members across the world benefit from CPN-sponsored programs, whether its a college scholarship or the mail order pharmacy. In addition to letters of thanks to tribal legislators, many look for ways to give back. One Texas-based Potawatomi did just that this summer for the Fire-Lodge Tribal Youth Program

Kaylee Keith-Morrison, a Whitehead, Anderson and Smith descendent, hosted a cheerleading and dance camp for area tribal youth at the PLACE. By practicing one hour each day, Keith-Morrison's goal for the girls participating in the camp, whose ages ranged from four to eight years old, was for them to go home and show their families what they learned that week. She wanted parents to see that their kids were engaged in an activity that doesn't require technology.

During the camp, they were taught several cheers and dances. Keith-Morrison said she wanted to give back to CPN because the tribe does so much for its members. She called Tribal Youth Coordinator Darin Greene to extend the offer to teach her cheer and dance talents to campers.



CPN tribal member Kaylee Keith-Morrison (far right) hands out awards during the week-long camp.

"From health services to scholarships and even helping out with living arrangements, the tribe does so much for its people," she said. "I wanted to give back, but at this point of my career I can't always write a check. However, I can use the gift of dance to teach students from another part of the country something that I'm passionate about."

Since graduating with a degree in dance from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, Keith-Mor-

rison has danced professionally in "Texas" the musical at Palo Duro Canyon and for the San Antonio Spurs. Currently she is an educator in the Texas public school system, where her students have encouraged her to learn native Potawatomi dances.

"Many of my students are refugees from Burma, Somalia and Laos. Each of them knows the native dances from their culture and they have encouraged me to learn mine as well,"

Keith-Morrison said. "Since I grew up in Texas, I wasn't able to connect to the place where my ancestors are from, but I'm glad to be sharing my gifts in the region where so many generations of my family lived."

The financial assistance the tribe provides motivated Keith-Morrison to take advantage of that opportunity by going to graduate school to enhance her role as an educator.

"Dance has given me a purpose. There is always a goal or something to work for. As a little kid, I was striving to learn something new and even as a dance educator, I'm always working toward goals with my students."

Most of the 15-20 students in the cheerleading camp were from the CPN Child Development Center and each of them received a medal for completing the camp. When asked what their favorite part of the camp was, there were many shouts of "Pizza! Dancing! Stretching!"

For more information on the activities available for tribal youth, please contact Darin Greene at [dgreene@potawatomi.org](mailto:dgreene@potawatomi.org).

## CPN education update: September 2016

By Susannah Howard,  
2016 Potawatomi Leadership Class

### Tips for the college process

**Have a list of wants and needs:** I had a wish list a mile long of things that would be cool to have at school, from college towns to club sports to small campuses. To make this list I talked to family, friends, current college students, counselors and teachers to determine what I am going to need to be successful in college. Talking to other people helps you gain perspective. Your teachers can advise on how you learn best and your friends probably know what you like to do.

**Look at schools:** I toured around 10-15 schools before I applied. All were a little different, some I went to for programs, others I went on formal tours and got a feel for the area. Being able to compare different aspects of the schools really helped narrow down my choices for my perfect school. The size of the dorm rooms, the traditions they mention and the dining halls will become huge if you live there for eight months, so be picky.

**Be open minded and ask for help:** Take suggestions from everyone! I liked coming from a really small high school, where I knew a lot of people and could talk to my teachers about anything. I didn't realize that I am the perfect candidate for a liberal arts college until a counselor asked me my interests and I listed 25 differ-

ent subjects! My brain is wired to see connections and I wanted to be taking classes in college that could be connected.


Don't forget that there are people everywhere who have gone through this process too. We all struggled with which college is best, how we will afford it and whether it sets us up to be successful down the road. From the internet, to your friends, family and teachers, there are hundreds of people with advice. You are never alone in the process. At CPN, there is a whole department of people who did the college process and really want to see you succeed. Don't be afraid that someone will think you are silly for asking the simple questions, because someone somewhere has asked it and if someone doesn't know the answer, keep on asking until you find it.

**Don't settle:** There are literally thousands of schools in the United States, and there is at least one that is right for you! Set yourself up for success and start the process early. Work on applications and research an hour a week during the school year and a little more in the summer. Make a to-do list of things you know have to happen. Look online and talk to counselors about deadlines for things like standardized testing, getting recommenders and financial aid requirements. Don't get caught off guard and scramble at the last minute.

Keep your grades up, if they are down, ask for help on how to get them up and don't take 'no' for an answer. If you are not a test-taker,

# REMINDER!

## THE FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15



**CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

work on test preparation online. Join extracurricular clubs and activities. The more subjects and jobs that you see, the more educated decisions you can make on future plans. Knowing the ins and outs of the process is really the best way to find yourself a place that is perfect for you.

**Mistakes happen:** I applied to nine colleges and universities, four of which I had never seen. Looking back now, they are colleges I would have never gone to even if accepted. I wasted a lot of energy on those applications that I could have spent on the others or just enjoying my senior year of high school. I was lucky that I knew I wanted to go to Smith College in Massachusetts as soon as I finished the tour there early in my senior year. But, I didn't know Smith College existed until my mom suggested it. I didn't think I would like being at a women's college, but I loved it! I thought I would be an environmental science major, and then I took a class

in the geology department and fell in love with it. A lot of success in college is based on trial and error. If I hadn't made the mistakes I did, taken the advice others had given me and prepared for my future, I might never have gotten to college. I never would have known I love studying rocks and hydrology. I never would have met my amazing friends. Most importantly, I don't think I would be as happy and successful as I am today. A lot can happen in five years and since you only live once, I find that the best strategy is to live life to the fullest, find the place that you will prosper and don't forget to enjoy yourself, every step of the way.

**To learn more about the programs and assistance from the CPN Department of Education, call 405-275-3121 or visit [www.potawatomi.org/services/education](http://www.potawatomi.org/services/education).**



# William Polke’s journey on the Trail of Death

In 1838, the Potawatomi Indians in the state of Indiana were forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands by order of the U.S. government. The 859 Potawatomi who started the journey travelled across Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and finally Kansas before finally arriving at their intended destination. The loss of life, 41 in total, resulted in the removal becoming known as the Potawatomi Trail of Death. Below are excerpts from a journal of one of the trail’s participants, William Polke.

Wednesday, 5 Sept. 1838

“During the night of the 4th at the encampment at Chippeway, twenty persons affected their escape—stealing two horses from the Indians remaining behind, and have not since been heard of.

"Fifty one persons were found to be unable to continue the journey, the means of transportation not being at hand—they were therefore left, the most of them sick, the remainder to wait upon them. Proceeded on our route, and reached at half past 12, at noon, the point determined upon as the location of our second encampment, a distance of nine miles from the encampment of the day before. The scarcity of water in the country again retarded the progress of the emigration—the distance being either too great or too short between the watering places. A child died on the evening of this day, and was buried on the morning. A child was also born during our encampment. A party of three Indians joined us today shortly after coming into camp. Subsistence generally consisting of beef and flour, and that very difficult to acquire—having in most cases to transport it from Logansport, a distance from the furthest point of 46 miles."



*The Emigration Procession by George Winter 1838.*

Sunday, 9 Sept. 1838

“Physicians came into camp today, and reported three hundred cases of sickness, generally of a temporary character, and which they are of opinion, may be removed by a two-day course of medicine. A kind of medical hospital has been erected today, which is likely to facilitate the course of medical regime proposed by the physicians. A child died today. The priest formerly attached to the Catholics among the Pottawattamies asked and obtained leave to say mass today and perform the ceremonies of his church in camp. The rites are now being performed.”

“This Evening Sidney Williams and Wm. T. Polke, who had been dispatched in pursuit of the Indians, who escaped from Chippeway, returned, having reconnoitered the villages and cornfields on the reserve without receiving and intelligence of the fugitives. They brought into camp three Indian horses which they had found on the road. A child died since dark.”



*Bishop Brute preaching to a concourse of connected Pottawattamie Indians near Logansport, Indiana - George Winter 1838.*

Friday, 14 Sept. 1838

“Left Lagrange encampment at an early hour and proceeded at a quick pace on our journey—passing over a dry and seemingly unhealthy portion of the country. Our party continues to mend in health. Occasionally howev-



*Line of Mounted Figures by George Winter, 1838.*

er, and indeed not unfrequently, persons thro’ weariness and fatigue take sick along the route. This occupies much of our time. We place them in the wagons which are every day becoming more crowded and proceed.”

“Reached our camp ground near Williamsport at nine p.m. As we advance farther into the country of the prairies water becomes more scarce—the streams are literally dried up, and we have reason to fear that unless soon refreshed with rain, our future marches will be attended with much pain, and suffering. To-day we made 18 miles. Two deaths took place this evening.”

Saturday, 15 Sept. 1838

"Early on this morning we were on our way, and travelled without interruption unit 12 o'clock. When we arrived at an unhealthy and filthy looking stream, at which, from the reports of the citizens of the country, we were forced to encamp. The young men among the Indians during the afternoon, to the number of twenty-five, were permitted to go on a hunting excursion—a permission which they have for some time seemed to covet. We travelled today about 10 miles. Two small children died along the road."

Saturday, 22 Sept. 1838

"At 8 o'clock we left our encampment and entered the prairie at Sidney. The day was exceedingly cold. The night previous had brought us quite a heavy rain, and the morning came in cold and blustry. Our journey was immediately across the prairie, which at this point is entirely divested of timber for sixteen miles. The emigrants suffered a good deal, but still appeared to be cheerful. The health of the camp continues to improve—not a death has occurred to-day, and the cool bracing weather will go far towards recruiting the health of the invalids."



*Wiss-So-Gay by George Winter, 1838.*

"A wagoner was discharged to-day for drunkenness. Dissipation is almost entirely unknown in the camp."

"Tonight, however, two Indians were found to have possessed themselves of liquor and become intoxicated. They were arrested and put under guard. Some six or eight persons were left at Davis's Point this morning, for want of the means of transportation. They came in this evening. We are at present encamped at Sidoris's Grove, sixteen miles distant from Sidney. Water quite scarce."

**JOIN US**  
**SEPTEMBER 17-18**  
**FOR THE 41ST TRAIL OF COURAGE**  
**LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL**

CPN Tribal Chairman John  
“Rocky” Barrett will be  
honored as a member of  
the Peltier and Bourassa  
families at a ceremony  
September 17 at 10 a.m.



**FULTON COUNTY HISTORICAL**  
**SOCIETY, ROCHESTER, INDIANA**



# Learn the signs for Suicide Prevention Day on September 10

By Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle, Ph.D, CPN Behavioral Health Coordinator

Oklahoma continues to have some of the highest rates of behavioral health disorders, which include mental health and substance abuse disorders. Unfortunately, many Oklahomans do not receive the help they need. Due to these factors, among others, the state continues to have high rates of completed suicides. According to the American Association of Suicidology, on a national level, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth (ages 15-24); outnumbering homicides. Getting the word out and offering support is key and we all have a crucial role to play in suicide prevention. Here are some suicide risk warning signs. You can easily remember it by the mnemonic “IS PATH WARM?”

If you notice these warning signs in yourself or a loved one help is available. Suicide is preventable and treatment works! The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Behavioral Health Services offers mental and substance abuse treatments that include individual, group, couples and family counseling and psychiatry. There are also other tribal clinics, counseling agen-

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**IDEATION:** someone saying they are considering killing themselves.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:** someone abusing alcohol, illicit drugs, or prescription drugs or an increase in use.

**PURPOSELESSNESS:** someone who no longer feels they have a purpose in life and no reason to live.

**ANXIETY:** someone experiencing anxiety at a level that impairs functioning, including problems sleeping.

**TRAPPED:** someone who feels trapped and has trouble seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

**HOPELESSNESS:** someone experiencing the feeling of hopelessness.

**WITHDRAWAL:** someone who is withdrawing from loved ones, work, responsibilities, etc.

**ANGER:** someone who is experiencing anger that has become unmanageable and more similar to rage.

**RECKLESSNESS:** someone with reckless behaviors and high-risk activities.

**MOOD CHANGES:** a noticeable change in mood and functioning.

cies, and private practice mental health professionals in the community. In addition to local resources you can contact the national suicide prevention lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The lifeline is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more about CPN Health Services or CPN Behavioral Health, call (405) 405-214-5101.



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LIVE VIDEOS



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FROM THE TRIBE

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FEATURE



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JOB OPPORTUNITIES



NETWORK WITH FELLOW TRIBAL MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES





## Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

*Bozho Nikanek,*  
(Hello my friends)

Well, at last we are starting to see some useable, good results in our ongoing controversy with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Oklahoma County Judge Don Andrews ruled *against* the Oklahoma Attorney General's office that was acting on behalf of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation last Friday. ODOT sought a temporary restraining order to deny Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 its lawful ability to use public roads' rights of way to lay water line for public use, an action they cannot legally take under state law.

In a bizarre twist, Oklahoma's attorneys alleged that the entity they sued on the face of the lawsuit was not the "true defendant." According to the attorney general's lawyers, a "phantom defendant" was the guilty party in their allegations of trespass, since the basic

premise of their lawsuit was that RWD3 did not exist!

So how could they sue a state water district defendant that does not exist?

They allege RWD3 "went out of existence" when the Citizen Potawatomi Nation rescued it by assuming all of its debt, buying its assets, and began managing the system. The CPN was authorized to take over management and "enhancement" of RWD3 in 2005, more than 11 years ago, by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. That state agency is responsible for water use and quality for the entire state.

Before they authorized an Indian tribe to manage a state entity, they made sure they got a legal opinion that the original water district, begun in 1997, was still in existence. And who issued that opinion that the water district still existed and the tribe was *only the owner of assets* of the district, not the actual district? The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office!

The very state lawyers who are now suing us deny their own 11 year old legal opinion that has resulted in millions of gallons of clean water sold to thousands of homes, many towns, schools, churches and businesses. If

things could get stranger, I cannot picture it.

Real world – this is all about the state's losing campaign to make us collect taxes for them. As RWD3's attorney, Steven Harris, told the judge, "This is simply another aspect of that campaign."

The judge ruled against the state's temporary restraining order within the hour, and stated he was doing further research on RWD3's motion to completely dismiss the case. We pray he does that very thing.

This didn't really start with ODOT, however. All of this squabbling began as a lawsuit filed by the City of Shawnee, who later asked the State of Oklahoma to assume the suit after the city wasted nearly \$500,000 trying to illegally force the Nation to collect taxes for them. But it wasn't just about tax money. It was also about water money.

One of the "burrs under Shawnee's saddle" is the very existence of Rural Water District 3, which now has exclusive water sales rights on three sides of the city. This happened after Pottawatomie County officials granted an expansion of RWD3's original exclusive sales area after Shawnee denied water and fire hydrant service to housing additions

adjoining the city over the course of nearly ten years. Besides not having decent water to drink and bad wells, these homeowners could not get regular priced home fire insurance because they did not have fire hydrants. Some paid more than \$800 more per year due to this lack of service by Shawnee.

RWD3 installed water mains and fire hydrants within six months of being granted the expansion. The county government went on to grant RWD3 nearly half of Pottawatomie County as its district. Shawnee has been angry about it ever since, but they brought it on themselves.

In the water sales jurisdiction hearing, one county commissioner asked a Shawnee official if the city had plans to help the people asking for water service. The city official said they had no plans, but also did not want RWD3 to bring water to them in case the city decided to.

To them, it was and is, all about money. I believe that is why the county government is on our side, because in our case, it is all about helping people and being good neighbors. If we had not taken over operation of RWD3, which serves more than half our original reservation jurisdiction, the only place we

can own tribal lands, would not have water. Without water, no one can live here, and the federal government will not allow us to move. Our efforts towards rural development in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma are not just about job growth and business success, it is really about survival.

Speaking of survival, I have been notified that I will be honored at the Trail of Courage celebration in Rochester, Indiana on the weekend of September 16. I invite all of you to come and learn about this pivotal and tragic period in our tribal history. I am certain you will come away amazed and inspired by the stories of the resilience, courage, and endurance of our great grandmothers and grandfathers. These are incredibly tough people who survived the worst of the atrocities of the Andrew Jackson Indian Removal era. They lived to become the founders of the great Indian nation we are today. Visit <http://cpn.news/Trail16> to register. See you there!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your tribal chairman.

*Migwetch,*  
John "Rocky" Barrett  
*Keweoge*  
"He leads them home."  
Tribal Chairman



## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

place this summer...one that occurred right after our Festival, and one that was part of the Gathering. Although the two were advertised as children's events, the parents were certainly invited and welcomed to participate. Because many of you may not have noticed the events, I wish to share a tidbit about each.

The first one is the Day of Champions Sports Camp occurring at FireLake Ball Fields right after Festival. It has taken place at CPN for the past 11 years. The camp is sponsored by CPN and Day of Champions, Inc., which was founded by former collegiate football coach Ken Huepel and son, Josh.

Many Oklahoma football fans readily recognize Josh Huepel as the Heisman Trophy runner-up and the Associated Press Player of the year for 2000 for the University of Oklahoma. During the last three years, the football skills camp has also included softball. This year we had 132 children who attended the camp, plus many parents and other adults who helped out or looked on.

The football and softball skills taught at the camp are admirable, but what I think is equally important are the four main principals taught by the coaches.... discipline, trust, respect and hard work.

Parents could not ask for more essential values to be included in a Day of Champions event. My appreciation goes out to Sarah Lawrance of FireLake Wellness Center for her lead role in organizing this event. Sarah and the tribe receive numerous letters each summer praising supreme effort and the "marvelous venue for the two-day camp", as Conrad Kraft's father wrote. The Day of Champions Camp, indeed, deserves acknowledgment.

The next event took place at the Gathering. The geo-



*Coach Huepel with the camp attendees.*

thermal lake directly behind the ball fields was opened to Gathering attendees for fishing. Children under ten years of age had to be accompanied by an adult, but even adults without children lined up. Gary Bourbonnais of the CPN Realty Department oversaw the task to prepare over 50 cane poles, fishing line, hooks, sinkers and bobbers for this new event sponsored by our tribe. The cane poles were chosen to prevent experienced fishing women and men from casting line into the middle of the small lake where geothermal equipment is anchored. That is the reason Chairman Barrett came up with the cane pole idea, which turned out to be a great plan.

For the adults my age, it sort of took us back to childhood

when fishing was an extreme relaxing recreation. The fishing extravaganza is sure to be featured next year at the annual Family Reunion Festival unless some unforeseen mishap interferes. It is my guess that Gary Bourbonnais needs to round up an added supply of cane poles...because I anticipate the activity to be a very busy one.

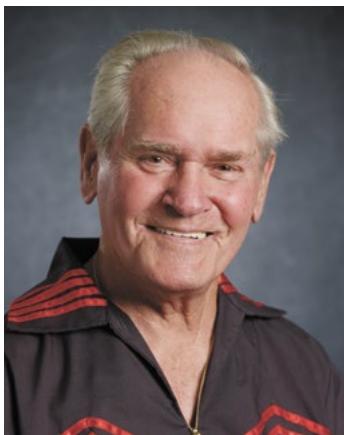
I appreciate those who read this article, and hope that you share my passion for providing special activities for our children...the future of our Nation.

*Migwetch,*  
Linda Capps  
Vice Chairman  
405-650-1238 cell  
405-275-3121 office  
[lcapps@potawatomi.org](mailto:lcapps@potawatomi.org)



*Grace, Dwayne and William Jarman of the Huron Potawatomi Tribe with their catch at FireLake during Gathering.*





## District 1 - Roy Slavin

*Bozho Nikan,*

First I want to mention the birthday of one of our District 1 members, Anna Comadol. While I am not sure I should mention a ladies age, Anna reached the age of 101 on Aug. 5, 2016. Happy birthday Anna! Here's to many more.

If you would like to say something to Anna forward a message to me and I will see that she gets it. On that note, if you have a family member who has reached the age of 90 or more, please let me know. It is a Potawatomi tradition to acknowledge and honor our wisest members.

Next let me say thank you to the Optical Clinic at the CPN East Health Clinic in Shawnee. I recently lost a lens out of my glasses. I went to a well-known optical shop here in Kansas City who said my prescription was outdated and I would need a new eye exam before they could make my new glasses. Their

fees are astronomical. I declined and made an appointment at the clinic in Shawnee. They examined my eyes, wrote a new prescription and fitted me with new glasses, including a new hard case and clip on sun glasses. *Igwien* (heartfelt thanks) to the folks at the east clinic for their expertise and kind consideration and to my Nation for providing these services. These services and facilities are yours and available to you in Shawnee. As our Vice-Chairman Linda Capps has always said, they are the "best of the best."

The CPN hosted the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations

this year and it was really great to visit with and renew acquaintances. In consideration of our northern Nations and due to the Oklahoma heat, some of the events such as grand entry were held in our air conditioned FireLake Arena. Next year's Gathering will be held at Walpole Island, Canada. If you plan to attend, and I hope you do, be sure you have the proper documents necessary to cross the border into Canada.

As always I will close with a request for your contact information. If you are in District 1 and do not receive e-mail or snail mail from me occasionally, it is because I

do not have your information and due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with it. You may send it to [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your representative.

*Migwetch,*

Roy Slavin  
*Netagtege* (Forever Planting)  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)



## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

*Bozho nikanek!*  
(Hello my friends)

**Walpole Island - Gathering 2017:** During our all-tribal councils' meeting during Gathering 2016, it was confirmed that *Bkejwanong* First Nation, also known as Walpole Island Indian Territory, will host the 2017 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. The Nation is 77 miles from Detroit. *Bkejwanong* translates as "where the waters divide." The territory is an island and is a First Nation reserve in southwestern Ontario, Canada, on the border between Ontario and Michigan.

At the start of that meeting, as I chose a seat next to the Walpole delegation, Councilwoman Muriel Sampson greeted me with a big hug and smile. Walpole Tribal Chairman Dan Miskokomon, offered his own warm hello and, during the meeting, exhibited his sly wit. I later had

the opportunity to visit with the two other council members who attended the 2106 Gathering, Dale Sands and Arlene Dodge. Both were delightful. The latter is a lawyer passionate about ensuring women and children are well-regarded and safe in the community. We hit it off right away. I am certain that our warm and gracious hosts will make the 2017 Gathering memorable and meaningful.

**Sweet friend and sweet grass:** At Walpole next summer I look forward to visiting again with elder Lila Tabobondung. A few Gatherings back, Lila and I danced together and became friends. She was with us for this year's Gathering. I have learned from Lila as our friendship has developed. E.g., Lila recently shared with me a water song to learn. You can hear it on YouTube at: <http://tinyurl.com/h20song>. The words and translation are:

*Nebe Gee Zha gay e go - Gee  
Megwetch wayn ne me go -  
Gee zha way ne me go*

(Water, we love you - thank you - respect you)

I also look forward to smelling the sweet grass that



*5k participants release balloons before the run.*

grows up north. Walpole Island artisans always bring the most fragrant sweet grass to our Gatherings! This year, one Walpole man selling sweetgrass from his booth put up a hand-lettered sign saying "Sweet grass - \$1 per sniff."

**Other Gathering events:** My album of Gathering photos is at <http://tinyurl.com/GON2016>. So much was going on that these photos don't begin to capture all that took place! Like many other runners in the Gathering Memorial Run and Walk, I wore my orange t-shirt commemorating Ross Korzeniewski. (Ross passed away unexpectedly Thanksgiving weekend 2015, after spending the hol-

iday with his extended family.) Ross's parents, George and Kathleen; his siblings, Emily, Will, Ken, Anna and Brent; his grandmother Nancy; and a number of his aunts, uncles and cousins, including his Aunt Kim, participated, as did many close friends and mentors, including Margaret and Tesia Zientek. I've included several run photos here. Many mourn our Nation's loss of a vibrant young Potawatomi leader. *Migwetch*/thank you to Jennifer Randell and Bree Dunham for the private ceremony they led later that day, offering his family members the eagle feathers Ross had requested for family namings he planned to conduct.

**Legislative agenda:** As a tribal legislature we soon will be providing our input on the executive branch's proposed budget. While the resolution I proposed earlier has not been put back on our agenda, I remain committed to revising our CPN marriage ordinance to authorize the conduct of same-sex marriage ceremonies and the recognition of same-sex marriages. I hope we can dialogue about it. Let the legislators know your views, please!

**Fall Feast:** Please make plans to attend the District 2 Fall Feast on Nov. 12, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia. Specific location and other details will follow.

I deeply appreciate the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe*  
Legislator, District #2  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
2200 North George Mason Drive  
PO Box 7307  
Arlington, VA 22207  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
Toll Free: 866-961-6988  
[evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com)

# Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

## CPN Executive Committee

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**All correspondence should be directed to Hownikan,**  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801  
Questions: [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880

**Address changes should be sent to Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls,**  
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801





Bozho, (hello)

Summer is winding down and we had some very good turnouts at Family Festival and the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. A major benefit for me personally, as a result of our hosting the Gathering was being able to attend our Potawatomi Leadership Program final project presentations. There were ten college students in the program. They are paired up and each pair creates a project. One of the projects this year was creating biographies for the legislator

District 3 - Bob Whistler

of each district to be put on [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org). Another PLP pair, Matthew Cliff and Randy Bazhaw, created an honor drum song that they sang for us. This will also be added to the tribal website. The song *Bodewadmi Madmowen*, is repeated four times and is sung as follows:

*Ndowabdamen ode Mb-wakawen*  
(We search for wisdom)

*Nmawjeshnomen Bodéwadmik*  
(We gather as Potawatomi)

*Nbyamen ode ode shkode*  
(We come to the fire)

*Mine bsedoyak o mamogosan*  
(And we listen to the creator)

The other projects involved replacement of plastic grocery bags with more green

reusable bags, a tribal public information documentary and a Family Festival-day youth camp. The PLP group is to be commended for joining this program, and we thank them for their project contributions they made while in Shawnee this summer learning about the Nation and how various departments operate.

Last month, I wrote about potential issues with insurance companies billing individuals for services electronically that could be a problem. Ironically, this month one of our health insurance companies billed us with six debit entries for the same service in lieu of the normal two. Had we not checked our statement, it could have very easily been overlooked. This is why I mentioned that you need to be very vigilant if you do any electronic banking.

As we head into the fall, I am planning a joint meeting with District 5 in Lubbock, Texas on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the National Ranching Heritage Center. Look for information to follow in a mailed announcement. This center has a variety of exhibits, and based upon reviews has something for all ages.

On Saturday, Sept. 24 mark your calendars to come out to Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas for American Indian Heritage Day of Texas. This is the fourth year for this function. As a result of CPN support and participation since the original event, we are the featured nation this year. Chairman “Rocky” Barrett has been invited to attend and make a presentation in regard to our heritage, culture, and growth if his schedule permits. There will be a variety of vendors there also

with authentic Native American arts and crafts. In addition to the American Indian Heritage Day of Texas program, you can stick around for the late afternoon’s horse racing. There is no entry fee to Lone Star Park when you enter for the AIHDT. So bring out the family. This event will run from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

*Bama pi* (later), and thank you for the honor of allowing me to represent you.

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He soars)  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
District 3 Representative  
112 Bedford Rd., Ste 116  
Bedford, TX 76022  
817-229-6271 Cell  
817-545-1597 Home  
[rwhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:rwhistler@potawatomi.org)  
[cpn3legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:cpn3legislator@yahoo.com)



**District 4 meeting in Garden City, Oct. 8, 2016:** I will hold a District 4 meeting at the Clarion Inn on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 10 a.m. The Clarion Inn is located at 1911 E Kansas Ave. The meeting is open to all CPN members but invitations will only be mailed to the members living in the western counties of Kansas. The agenda topics will include an update on the financial status of the Nation, latest news in economic development as

District 4 - Jon Boursaw

well as an overall update on tribal programs and services. The lunch menu is chicken fried steak. I am prepared to conduct a naming ceremony immediately following the meeting at a nearby, suitable site. For those who would like to be named and have already received a naming questionnaire, you need to return the questionnaire to me as soon as possible. For those who would like to be named but do not have the questionnaire, please contact me as soon as possible. If you plan to attend please RSVP to me at 785-608-1982 or [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org) not later than October 4.

**Meeting about Burnett’s Mound:** I was invited to a meeting the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation director, staff and other interested individuals from the local

community on August 18 to discuss future development of Burnett’s Mound in Topeka. The parks and recreation director has expressed to me that he would like to see more information on the mound that tells the story of Abram Burnett and the early settlement of Shawnee County by members of the now Citizen Potawatomi Nation. One item on the agenda will be retaining the name “Burnett’s Mound.” The major contributor of funding for the development of a trail system on the mound has expressed that it should be called Skyline Park. I have already had an exchange of emails with the parks and recreation director and he agrees with me that the name should not be changed. I will report the outcome of this meeting in the next *Hownikan*.

**Meeting with NPS:** As I reported last month, I was invited to a meeting on August 23 with representatives of the U.S. National Park Service who were in Topeka to design a theme park commemorating the Oregon Trail crossing point on the Kansas River. The proposed site of this park is the location of what was Pappan’s Ferry Landing on the north bank of the Kansas River in Topeka. Again, I will report the outcomes of this meeting in the October edition of the *Hownikan*.

**Gathering of Potawatomi Nations 2016:** By all indications the recent Gathering of Potawatomi Nations 2016 in Shawnee, Oklahoma in July was a success. It was good to see so many District 4 members in Shawnee and I know I did not have the opportuni-

ty to see and meet all of you. For those of us who participated the powwow dancing on Friday and Saturday it sure was nice to be in an air-conditioned facility.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislative representative.

*Migwetch,*  
  
Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*  
CPN District 4 Rep.  
(O) 785-861-7272  
(C) 785-608-1982  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.  
Thursday 3-5 p.m.  
Other times - Please call



Hope this finds everyone back to school, work and having had a wonderful summer vacation. I have a lot to report and I look forward to any comments you may have. We have an upcoming schedule for meetings and conferences that may interest you. I

District 5 - Gene Lambert

know I am excited as always to get to the district to see everyone again. We are family, so reunions are precious memories. First, we have the Colorado meeting that is confirmed for Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 at the Denver Art Museum. This is a requested change of venue for something new and different. The schedule will include registration at 10 a.m. with our meeting to start at 10:30 (Indian time). We will have an overview of what is going on at home and lunch will be served 12:30 to 1 p.m. It will be a sit down lunch with three choices on the menu provided.

Of course there will be the drawings and give always as usual. There will be opportunity to hear some of our family stories we always look forward to. Following the lunch we will enjoy a wonderful and exciting tour of the Native American art collection. I believe it would be a fabulous opportunity to introduce your children to the various cultures within our own. Second, is the November 5 district meeting in the great state of Texas, co-hosted by me and Bob Whistler, as we share the state. It will be my first meeting there and I am

ecstatic about meeting tribal family members there. Bob has done a great job in Texas so I look forward to working with him as well. We are fortunate to have a man of his stature in the legislative position. We will be looking through the eyes of Texas at the National Ranching Museum in Lubbock on Nov. 5, 2016, Registration at 10 a.m., meeting at 10:30 a.m. (again, Indian time) lunch will be served at 1 p.m., giveaways, family stories, drawings and to finalize you will be able to tour the museum until 5 p.m. should you choose. The museum show cases life the way

it used to be over the generations and includes Native American artifacts. Watch your mail for the invitations to follow on both meetings above. Let’s make this a record turnout this year. Please remember you are the future of our Nation and we can continue with your support. You are important! We want to see you and get to know you personally. Bring someone who has never attended a tribal meeting. They will love you for it. Last, but not least, in Arizona is the Native American  
*Continued on page 21*



## District 5 - Gene Lambert

Women's Conference on Nov. 3, 2016 at the [We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center](#) at Fort McDowell in [Fountain Hills, Arizona](#).

As noted on their website, "Just minutes from the attractions of Scottsdale, this hotel in Fountain Hills features a

casino, championship golf course and stunning views of the surrounding mountains and Sonoran Desert."

More registration information will follow. It is a wonderful even to help Native women addressing spirituality, health, professionalism

and all the issues in-between.

I will be performing the opening ceremonies. Hope you will put this on your calendar too.

The more active you are in Native American events the more you will appreciate the

Citizen Potawatomi Nation and what we represent.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you and I am here for any questions that may arise.

Please keep a watch for your

personal invitations for the upcoming events.

Gene Lambert  
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)  
Your District 5 Legislator  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
[glambert@potawatomi.org](mailto:glambert@potawatomi.org)



Bozho nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

So the kids are back in school, summer vacation was a blast and you're ready for things to slow down a little as the fall season starts to show its colors. But before you get too relaxed there's one more thing you need to plan on doing this year. Please consider yourself invited to attend the CPN District 6 and 7 Heritage Festival!

District 7 Representative Mark Johnson and I had the opportunity to attend the Family Reunion Festival in June and the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations in July. At those events we started kicking around the idea of putting together a similar

## District 6 - Rande K. Payne

event for our districts. As our discussions evolved we concluded that we would bring our districts together at a central location for a weekend long outdoor event. Since November is Native American Heritage Month, we thought it would be fitting to have the event in the early part of the month to kick off the month long celebration in style!

Some of the activities planned so far include an archery competition, games for all ages, face painting for the kids, crafting, ceremonies and dancing. Meals include lunch on Saturday, a traditional feast that same night and breakfast Sunday morning.

A few of the more important things to bring are a blanket and or your favorite lawn chair to sit on, layers of clothing as it can be warm during the day and chilly in the evening, and if you have regalia please feel free to bring it. There will be lots of bottled water available. No ice chests please and no alcohol. Attendance is limited to



Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members, their spouses or significant others and their children. This is a time

of honoring our Potawatomi heritage.

Invitations will be going out

in the mail soon. There will be instructions on the invitation to RSVP. There are many lodging choices in Visalia within 15 minutes of the festival grounds. If you have some vacation time left I would suggest planning a trip to Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park or Yosemite National Park. Visalia and Fresno are the gateways to these beautiful national treasures and the fall is a great time to visit.

Mark and I are excited to be planning this event and we look forward to seeing you in November!

Wisdom from the Word: "go and feast on all the good things he has given you. Celebrate with your family..." Deuteronomy 26: 11

Bama pi,

Rande K. Payne  
Mnedo Gabo  
Legislator District 6  
31150 Road 180  
Visalia, CA 93292-9585  
(559) 999-3525 office  
(559) 999-5411 cell  
[rande.payne@potawatomi.org](mailto:rande.payne@potawatomi.org)



Bozho District 8,

On August 6 we held our regional event in Spokane, Washington. It was well attended by Washington, Idaho and Montana members and their spouses. Many thanks to all who attended, set up and took down folding chairs and generally helped out.

There were 10 to 15 members of the Hardin founding family present. Two young ladies, Jozie and Tessa Arenz (and their parents) came from as far as Woodridge, Illinois. It would be no surprise that they would win the "Farthest Traveled" prize. With so many Hardin(s) in the house, we watched the

## District 8 - Dave Carney

CPN Cultural Heritage Center's founding family DVD about the Hardin family as part of the evening's entertainment.

Our "Wisest" Potawatomi was Norma Rielly of Vancouver, Washington. She received a very beautiful Pendleton blanket from Potawatomi Gift Shop in recognition of her 79 years. Our youngest was Ezra Dixon – and adorable two year old who received a child's size Pendleton.

One of the highlights of the presentation about CPN Tribal history, enterprises and services was the announcement of the CPN Department of Education. I am very excited about the enhancement of service delivery I anticipate from this newly formed department. Members were excited to learn that digital notifications and digital documents will be replacing faxes and the U.S. Postal Service. Tessa Zientek is the new ed-



The attendees of the Spokane gathering.

ucation director, Channing Seikel and Josh Bullock are the new college advisors and Mindee Duffell is the new internship coordinator. Please visit: [www.potawatomi.org/services/education](http://www.potawatomi.org/services/education) or email [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org).

I am currently planning the Fall Feast for November which should be in Portland, Oregon this year. Stay tuned for details.

Best Regards,

Dave Carney/Kagasghi  
[dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org)  
360-259-4027



Norma Rielly - Wisest CPN Member.





District 11 - Lisa Kraft

My apology for the absence of a column these last few papers. It is hard for me to write a month or so in advance of an event, like the Festival or Gathering, because I usually get my ideas by interacting with tribal members and our staff. The inspiration for this column is actually my answers to a series of thought-provoking questions from Sage Hanson, a member of the 2016 Potawatomi Leadership Program. Sage's summer PLP project is to build biographies of our tribal legislators for the CPN website. I thought I would share my bio in this month's column.

I am originally from Shawnee, Oklahoma. My Potawatomi heritage comes from my father. His mother is a descendant of William H. Peltier's daughter, Mary Cordelia, and his father is a descendant of Hiram Weld and Margaret Ogee's daughter Francis. My grandmother, Ara Mae O'Connor, enrolled us back in 1989, when we amended our Constitution to open our rolls to blood relations instead of blood quantum.

Outside of being a tribal legislator, I am a professional grant writer. I specialize in writing U. S. Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grants for other Oklahoma Indian nations. On occasion, I manage large federal construction projects on their behalf. I have written building projects ranging from travel plazas and discount stores to health clinics and museums and even water and sewer improvements and new housing.

I enjoy working with other tribal leaders to fund their strategic plans and delight in the celebration when our collaboration receives an award notice; it is hands-on tribal nation building. There is a high level of trust when I work with a tribe because I need to review audits, accounting and budgeting systems, procedures for buying goods and services, and internal staff capabilities for managing million dollar projects. Having worked with federal grants and contracts for 20 years provides me unique experience as a legislator. I appreciate contracting compliance and being accountable and transparent. Knowing the multitude of federal funding opportunities available to us as a Nation and as individual contractors keeps my eyes open to limitless Potawatomi possibilities.

I won the District 11 legislative seat in 2007 after we

amended our constitution to open it up for representation outside of Pottawatomie (sic) County. I was living in Stillwater. I had also been serving on our Nation's bank board of directors for the six years leading up to my run, along with Representative David Barrett. I ran for office hoping I would someday play an active role in fostering the growth and prosperity of our Nation.

Being Potawatomi means that my family is deeply rooted. Having grown up in a very small town, my world seemed small until I moved to Dallas a few years into college. When I finally got out on my own, I realized that the sky was the limit (my son likes to correct me and say the universe is the limit - we are such Trekkies). I thought so too until I hit a promotion glass ceiling without a college degree and had to move back to Shawnee. Had our tribe not come through with scholarship assistance at that time in my young adulthood, I would not have been able to go back to college and earn a degree from the University of Oklahoma. Without that degree, I probably would not have been hired at our Nation back in 1996 or asked to write grants and help negotiate us into self-governance with the Department of Interior-BIA. I have immeasurable gratitude in being Potawatomi and the educational and career opportunities it has given me. It has

also brought me closer to my Potawatomi family, immediate and extended.

I hope to contribute to our members through K-12 tutoring scholarships legislation, encourage private business mentoring and internships (our tribal members offering our regional members opportunities to learn, from their own successes, in their own fields, and at Potawatomi-owned businesses), career and job fairs at our annual festivals and the promotion of federal contracting with our member-owned businesses using our tribe's ability to receive nationwide sole-source-federal-contracts. I wish to see our economic prosperity grow throughout America and, globally, in addition to growing locally. When we can personally provide for ourselves and our families - young, old and in between - through developed skills and contributions, we become self-governing people.

The biggest challenge our tribe faces in the coming years is operating our government as three distinctly separate branches of government. After nearly nine years as a tribal legislator, I strongly desire to see the executive branch removed from the legislature. Our constitution (Article 6, Section 2) gives the tribal chairman "general supervision" over "the affairs of the legislature." To change this in our tribal constitution

requires unanimous vote of the legislature (which the executive branch continues to be a part of and head of each legislative committee) or petition of 30 percent of tribal members over the age of 18.

What concerns me most is the future of our political structure and the extreme difficulty it will be to amend our constitution. If one person votes it down, the legislature will not be able to change or amend our constitution to change with the times. I would like to see the executive branch functioning as the executive branch, the legislature fully engaged in lawmaking, and the judiciary branch functioning as it currently does. I believe our legislature should appoint a speaker of the house to provide "general supervision" of the legislature. These changes will not come easy, but I hope that I will continue the privilege of serving many more years as your District 11 representative to do what I can.

It is my understanding that these questions were asked of all members of the tribal legislature. If you want to learn more about your legislator, please visit their tribal webpage or the app developed by the PLP for smartphones.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft  
Oklahoma Representative  
District 11



District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

Bozho,

What a busy summer it has been for the CPN employees and our tribal members. With Festival and hosting of the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations behind us, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the employees of our Nation for their hard work and long hours they put in to make these events a great success! Having a lot of events for the Gathering held in the FireLake Arena sure helped with the heat! It was a pleasure meeting and visiting with members of the additional Potawatomi tribes and visiting with some of our members who didn't make it for Festival but were able to make the trip to Gathering.

I hope each of you that attended were able to see the

progress made at the heritage center after a broken water pipe flooded and damaged the exhibits over two years ago. If you did not have a chance to see the progress I urge you to go by and visit the next time you are in the area. So much of our tribe's history and traditions can be learned from these exhibits. In addition, our veteran memorial exhibit is coming along nicely. I look forward to seeing the finished project! The heritage center staff is hoping to complete construction of the museum by June of 2017.

Looking to the future with a son that is a senior and will be attending college next year and a daughter in her first year of high school, I was pleased to find some of the following safety tips on our website from CPN House of Hope's Amanda Chapman for on-campus safety:

**Trust your gut and be true to yourself:** If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, trust your instincts and leave. Lie and make up an excuse

to leave rather than stay and be uncomfortable, scared or worse.

**Take control of your online life:** Think twice before you share personal information online. Constantly posting social media updates on your whereabouts, activities or even class schedules may allow someone to track your every move. Remember this motto: "If you would not share the information with a stranger, then you shouldn't share it online."

**Make others earn your trust:** The college environment can foster a false sense of security. Don't assume that your new friends will definitely have your back or be looking out for your best interests.

**If you see something, say something:** If a situation seems questionable, speak up and alert others around you to it. By intervening you can prevent a crime from being committed. Remember, you can always contact your resident assistant or campus police or call 911.

**Be aware and stay alert:** Whether you are hanging out

at a party or walking across campus, pay attention to what is going on around you. Take well-trafficked routes and avoid being isolated with someone that you don't know or trust. Get to know your surroundings — take notice of the blue safety light locations and don't be hesitant to use them if necessary.

**Make plans and be prepared:** When going out, know ahead of time who is going and plan to stay together as a group. Construct a backup plan for the day or night that you're going out so that all of your friends know where to meet up if someone gets separated or their phone dies.

**Party smart:** Guard your drink at parties. Don't accept one from people you don't trust or know well. Stick to drinks you prepared yourself. If you happen to walk away from it, get a new one. Keep track of what you've consumed so that you can stay in control. If you feel like you're getting sick or are too intoxicated, ask someone to help you get to a safe place or to a hospital.

**Be a good friend:** Watch out for each other. Stick together in groups, especially when traveling from one place to the next. If anyone is intoxicated or seems to need assistance, get them to a safe place and support them. If you suspect that a friend has been drugged or needs medical attention because of over-intoxication or for any other reason, call 911.

I will definitely be sharing these tips with my children and any other students that cross my path! They are the future of our Nation we must do all we can to keep them safe! With best wishes to all of our students a successful and safe school year!

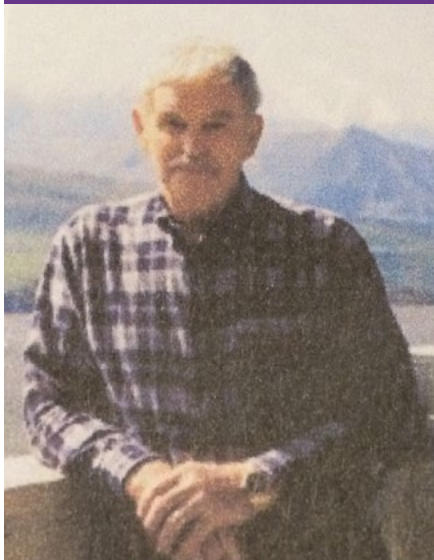
Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as one of your Oklahoma legislative representatives.

Migwetch,

Bobbi Bowden  
Peshknokwe  
District 13 Representative  
[bbowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:bbowden@potawatomi.org)



## Marvin Derryberry, Jr.



Ret. Chief Warrant Officer Marvin Derryberry, Jr., 84, died Jan. 29, 2015 at his home. The Warner, Oklahoma native had served 24.5 years in the U.S. Army, initially enlisted as military police then promoted to warrant officer in the nuclear support branch. He then served 23.5 years in the DOD civil service training active military personnel and National Guard in the southeastern U.S. and Puerto Rico. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Stigler, Oklahoma, the DAV Pearl Harbor Chapter, the VFW in Topeka, Kansas, and the Citizen Band Potawatomi.

He is survived by his wife: Onnie Arnsdorff Derryberry; children: Tony Derryberry, Tina Paige, Julie Gilbert and James Derryberry; a sister: Jean Krumtum; grandchildren: Tony Paige, Kara Stephens, Bailey Martin, Michael Gilbert, Christopher Gilbert and Zackary Gilbert; great-grandchildren: Cheyenne Paige, Kaleb Derryberry, Gabriel, Shiloh and Emmeline Martin and Jaylee Gilbert; step-daughters: Marsha Williams and Lynell Arnsdorff; step-grandchildren: Dana Rahn, Danielle Stone, Brandi Fort and J.W. Arnsdorff; step-great-grandchildren: Jordan Rahn, Hannah Rahn, Layton Stone, Landon Stone, Catie Rahn and Bryson Stone.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 2, 2016 in the funeral home chapel. Interment: Turkey Branch United Methodist Church Cemetery. Remembrances: Turkey Branch United Methodist Church. Thomas C. Strickland & Sons Funeral Home Effingham Chapel.

## Richard (Dick) Spencer



Richard (Dick) Spencer died on July 16, 2016 at the age of 97. He was born on June 14, 1919, the son of Richard Henry Spencer and Elizabeth (Bessie) Muller Spencer. His maternal grandparents were Carrie Navarre and George Henry Muller.

Dick lived in Oklahoma in the 1920s, and started school at the State Center School near Jones. The family later ran a filling station in Choctaw. After moving with his family to Oregon in 1929, he lived the rest of his life in western Lane County.

He married Adelaide Marsh on March 7, 1941.

Dick was a World War II veteran, serving in Europe. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the bronze star and the French Croix de Guerre.

He was a logger his entire working life and was a partner in Montgomery and Spencer Logging Company. Proud of his Native American heritage, Dick was recognized as the "wisest elder" attending the Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 8 summer gathering in Eugene in 2013. For this, he was awarded a sacred eagle feather and a beautiful blanket with traditional design.

He was preceded in death by his wife: Adelaide in 2015.

He is survived by his daughter: Anne Caputo of Alexandria, Virginia; son: David of Portland, grandsons: Chris Caputo and Jack Spencer; step grandson: Rick Caputo. His extended family includes many Spencers, Mullers and Navarres in the greater Oklahoma City area.

The funeral was held at Valley United Methodist Church in Veneta, Oregon on July 23, 2016 with Pastor Mike Gregor officiating. Burial was at West Lawn Memorial Gardens in Eugene.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Dick's memory be made to the Applegate Pioneer Museum, 25755 Jeans Road, Veneta, OR 97487.

## Mark David Barshaw



July 17, 1958 - June 25, 2016

Mark Barshaw, of Nolanville, Texas, passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2016.

He was born on July 17, 1958 at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona to the late Keith and Elois Barshaw.

Mr. Barshaw proudly served in the United States Army for 20 years until his retirement in 1997. He was deployed to Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm, and was awarded a Bronze Star. During his many years of service, he received various other awards and recognition. He was

a loving husband and father, and his presence will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years: Yvonne Barshaw; cherished daughter: Ashley Barshaw; and numerous other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society <https://donate.cancer.org/index>.

## Bonnie Louise Mandrell



Bonnie Louise Mandrell, 81, of Mountain View, Oklahoma passed away on July 7, 2016 after a sudden illness in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

She was born on Oct. 22, 1934 in Stratford, Oklahoma to Jessie Jewel (Hooper) and Ray Clifton Butler, and was the oldest of seven children.

On Nov. 22, 1951, she married Dane Jefferson Mandrell at the First Baptist Church in Mountain View, Oklahoma. They were married 56 years and seven days before Dane passed away on Sept. 29, 2008. To this union one son was born, Dale Jefferson Mandrell.

Bonnie enjoyed collecting angels, clocks and cookbooks. She also enjoyed sewing and quilting. She was a devoted wife to Dane who had health problems for 28 years while helping other family members with their health problems.

Over the years, Bonnie worked at several places. She owned and operated the Bargain Box, a used clothing store, and she helped Dane at their aerial spraying service located east of Mountain View for many years. She also worked at several of the local cafés and nursing homes.

Bonnie was a member of the First Baptist Church in Mountain View.

She is survived by her son: Dale Mandrell and companion, Judith Schneider of Green Cove Springs, Florida; grandson: Shane Mandrell and companion, Christina Brown of Gainesville, Florida; great-granddaughters: Lexi Mandrell and Summer Mandrell; sister: Shirley Stubbs and husband, Dub of Mountain View; brothers: Bud Butler and wife, Rheda of Cordell, Oklahoma, Orvel Butler and wife, Doris of Mountain View, Leo Butler and wife, Mary of Carnegie, Oklahoma, Ronnie Butler and wife, LaDonna of Carnegie; a very, very special and lifelong friend: Rena Kimbrell of Mountain View.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Dane in 2008; her parents and her brother: Frank Lee Butler in 2008.

Graveside services were held July 11, 2016 at Mountain View Cemetery with Rev. Jim Riley Officiating. Services were under the direction of Fort Cobb Funeral Home, Fort Cobb Oklahoma.

## A Funeral Prayer

*Hau ndenwémagnek*  
Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*  
We have come here today

*Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma*  
To lay our brother to rest

*Ngom she épam sét ode*  
Today he walks

*Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek*  
Among those who have passed on

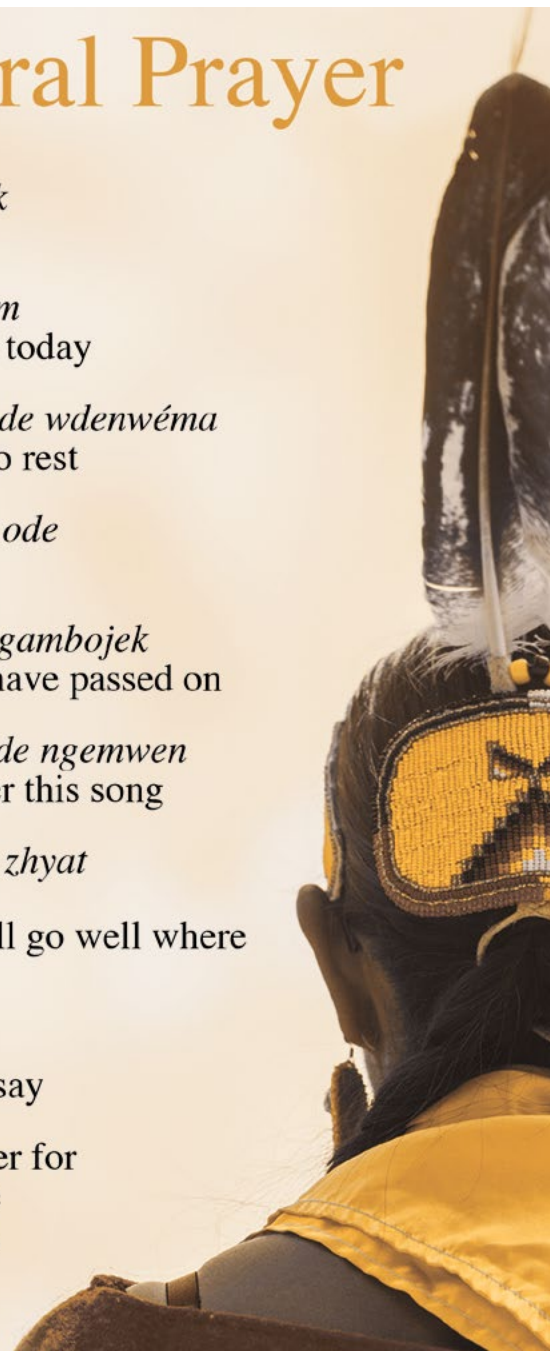
*I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen*  
That is why we offer this song

*Émno shketot wa je zhyat*  
*ibe shpemsegok*  
That his journey will go well where  
he goes above

*Iw énaj moyan*  
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for  
a specific loved one  
who has walked on.

By Don Perrot







Cherie Winton, 52, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on July 14, 2016 in Highland. She was born on January 17, 1964 in Santa Cruz, California the daughter of Cecille Whan Corson and the late Richard Corson.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her brother: Gary Corson.

Survivors include, her mother: Cecille Corson; her son: J.J. Solorio of Murfreesboro; her daughter: Ashley Solorio of Murfreesboro; three brothers: Michael Corson, Richard Corson, and Mark Corson; her sister: Cheryl Corson Green; and a much loved granddaughter: Amelia Solorio.



With deep sadness, his family announces the passing of Paul Aloysius Wamego, 91, proud Citizen Potawatomi and member of the founding Wamego, Bruno, and Vieux families.

Mr. Wamego was born in the small town of Mayetta, Kansas, just east of the Prairie Band Reservation, on March 4, 1925. As a boy, he moved by wagon with his parents Charlotte Bruno Wamego and Harry Wamego and his several siblings to Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

Mr. Wamego enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18, and participated in World War II combat in New Guinea and the Philippines. His service earned him a Bronze Star, as well as other medals. He later served his country as a member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne.

After the War, Mr. Wamego had a long career as a master welder. A member of the Boilermakers Union, he worked on complex construction projects, including nuclear pow-

er plants. His work allowed Mr. Wamego to indulge his wanderlust—he lived and worked in San Diego, California, Pocatello, Idaho and Phoenix, Arizona among other cities.

In his later years, Mr. Wamego returned to Pawhuska to be near his mother Charlotte, whom he adored, and the rest of his large family. In his 80s, Mr. Wamego moved to Haskell, Oklahoma (home of two of his children), where he became well known as he rode his 3-wheeled bicycle all over town.

Mr. Wamego is survived and will be forever missed by one sister, six children, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Paul Aloysius Wamego was a fine man who laughed easily and lived fully each day of his long life. Even in his last days, he always proclaimed himself “fine as feathers,” and the reason he gave - “I’m a tough old Indian.



Mr. V. A. “Jiggs” Pratt, 93, of Maud, Oklahoma, passed away July 19, 2016 at the farm on which he was born. He then joined the love of his life of 67 years, Edna Marie Pratt.

He was born on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, 1923 to Robert Arthur and Lula May (Wheeler) Pratt.

Jiggs was raised on the farm northwest of Maud. He graduated from Harjo High School in 1940. Jiggs married Edna Marie Sturgis on Nov. 1, 1945. They began their home in Maud, and then moved to Midwest City in 1955. They lived in the Mid-Del area for 28 years until his retire-

ment from Tinker Air Force Base as a meat cutter in the commissary. They then moved to the family “Centennial” farm where he lived the last 33 years. Jiggs loved working around the farm, raising cattle and gardening. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

He was a long time member of Faith Community Church of God in Shawnee.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife: Edna; brother: Bernard F. Pratt; sisters: Myrtle Yates, Inez Faulkner and Zelma Daniel.

Those left to cherish his memory are his three daughters and two sons-in-law: Linda Haces of Oklahoma City, Gayla and Dalyn Helbling of Bastrop, Louisiana, Donna and Douglas Thornton of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and special nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

Services were held on July 23, 2016 at Cooper Funeral Home Chapel with his son-in-law, Dalyn Helbling, Pastor James Eustace and Tom Harrison of Faith Community Church in Shawnee officiating. Burial followed at Cummings Cemetery in Maud, under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

Memorials may be made to Faith Community Church of God, 2019 E. MacArthur St., Shawnee, OK 74804.



Joe Keith LaClaire, 59, of Karnack, Texas died Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015. Joe was born March 28, 1956 in Seminole, Oklahoma to Bobbie Bailey LaClaire Casida and Jim LaClaire. Joe was raised in White Oak and attended school there.

Joe moved to Caddo Lake in Karnack in 1991. He enjoyed being outside, fishing, boating, riding his Ya-

maha Rhino, watching all the wildlife at the lake and was so fascinated with the alligators. Joe loved all of his great friends around the lake. Joe cherished and adored his Rottweiler, Bailey.

Joe was very proud of his Potawatomi Indian heritage. He was an excellent carpenter and had many jobs throughout his life including Ragland Sales and Lebus in Longview.

When he was young, he loved working for his Grandpa Bailey at many of the full service gas stations he owned.

Joe was very close to his mother, Bobbie, sister, Dana and grandparents, H.E. and Ruth Bailey. (Grandma Ruth loved and adored him so much.)

Joe is survived by his mother: Bobbie Casida, of Longview; sister: Dana Griffin and brother-in-law, Donny Griffin; very special aunts: Donna Schroeder and Carolyn Howard; very special cousins: Michael and wife, Mandy Schroeder and their three children, Brittney, Brooklynn and Brinnlee, Jeff and son, Justin, Mark and Debbie Schroeder; Johnny Carpenter; other cousins: Matt and wife, Joni Howard and daughter, Holly Howard, Kari and husband, Rick McDaneil and daughter, Devin McDaniel; and many other friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father: Jim LaClaire; stepfather: Darrell Dolgener; uncle: Larry Howard; cousin: Jake Howard and grandparents.

Memorial Services were held June 18, 2016 at Backwater Jacks located at Caddo Lake in Karnack.

Memorials may be made at any Texas Bank & Trust to Bubbles 4 Brinnlee Schroeder fighting Nephrotic Disease.

Please leave online condolences at [dgdg2009@hotmail.com](mailto:dgdg2009@hotmail.com)

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org).

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [CClark@Potawatomi.org](mailto:CClark@Potawatomi.org).